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THE TIMES

No. 65,044

SATURDAY AUGUST 27 1994

Drug law change may hit athletes

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JOHN GOODBODY

LAWs that would subject athletes and other users of anabolic steroids to heavy fines or even prison sentences are being considered by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, it emerged last night.

Michael Forsyth, the new Home Office minister of state responsible for drugs, is backing action to tackle the use of steroids, which he believes is becoming a growing social problem. He is understood to be supported by Mr Howard, in considering legislation that could mean sentences of up to five years for suppliers and two years for users.

The disclosure comes as British athletics officials reacted with anger to reports that Russian officials were told a month ago that runner Dina Modahl had failed a drugs test. She was sent home from the Commonwealth Games in Canada this week. The British

man, said yesterday: "We heard on July 23, when Russian federation officials told British journalists they looked forward to coming to the World Cup because a British woman had tested positive."

"Then we just dismissed it as a rumour. Now we need to find out from them [Russian officials] exactly who told this piece of news. We are deeply concerned about what is going on here."

It emerged yesterday that the shot-putter Paul Edwards, also sent home from Canada after failing a test on August 12, failed another carried out by Sports Council officers in Britain on August 16.

Both Modahl, 28, and Edwards, 35, are suspected of taking Class I drugs, which include anabolic steroids and strong stimulants such as amphetamines. One federation member said they were "not the sort of drugs that could be taken by accident."

A senior government source said yesterday it was up to the sports governing bodies to stamp out drugs. Mr Forsyth and his ministerial colleagues are shortly to decide what action to take on fresh advice on steroid use from the Government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

That body suggested at the end of the 1980s that anabolic steroids were not being used widely enough to form a social problem, and the Government decided against making possession a criminal offence.

Since then Kenneth Clarke, when Home Secretary, invited the council to look again at the question of a ban because of increasing evidence that the problem is more widespread.

Ministers and officials refused to reveal the latest recommendations of the council yesterday, but the clear view within the Government is that the problem has become much more serious and that action should be taken.

If the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act is amended to include steroids, those possessing them could go to jail for three months or face a £1000 fine on summary conviction, or two years or an unlimited fine on indictment. Suppliers could face three months or a £2500 fine on summary conviction, or five years or an unlimited fine on indictment. The sale of steroids is already illegal, but possession is not.

Tom Pendry, Labour's sports spokesman, said that the Government had vacillated for too long and should now take action. On the World at One programme on BBC Radio, Mr Forsyth said he had "considerable sympathy" for Mr Pendry's call.

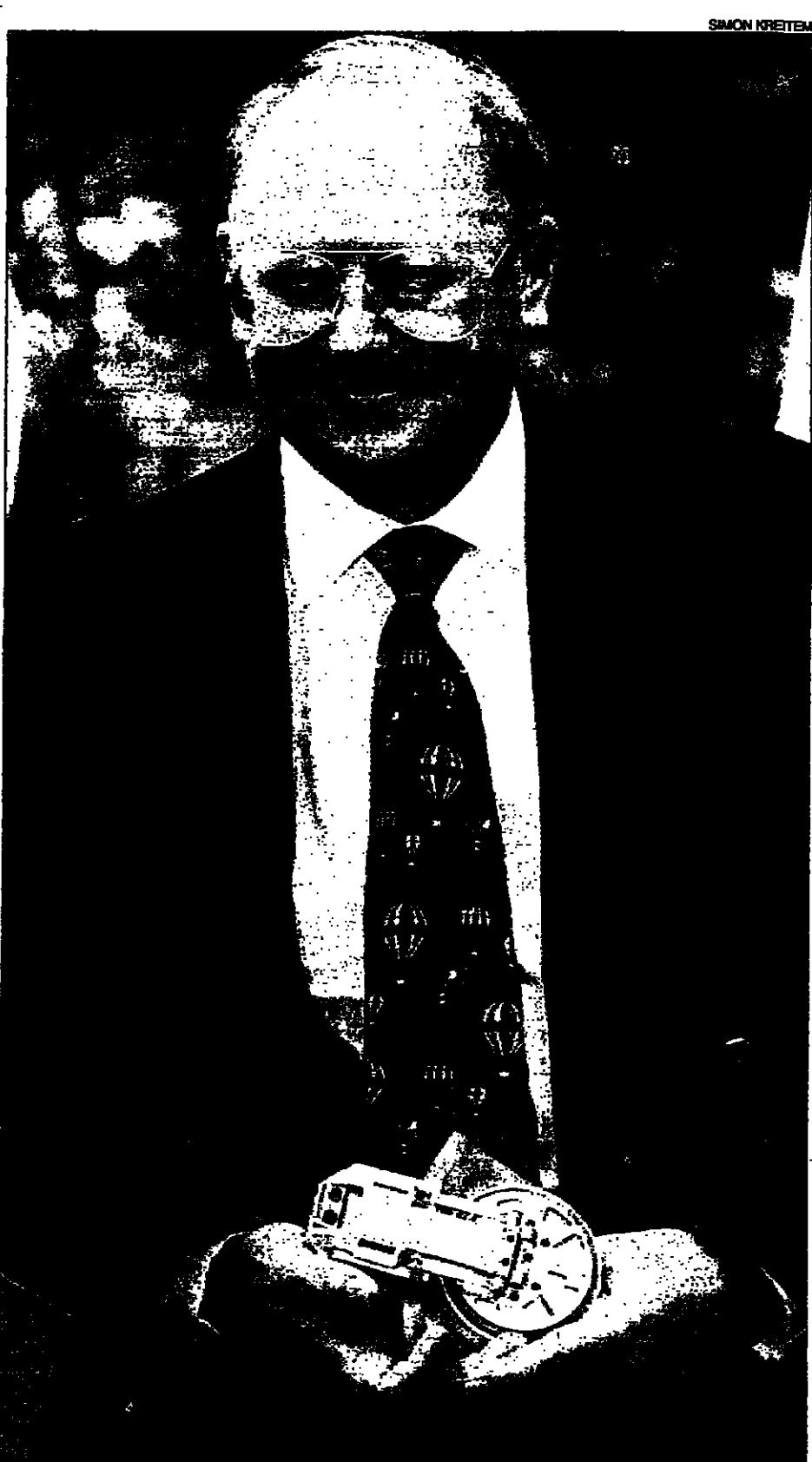
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The surgeon John Wallwork holding one of the £40,000 artificial hearts yesterday

Metal device for permanent use Surgeons give patient first artificial heart

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A 62-YEAR-old man has been given an artificial heart in a pioneering operation at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge.

The £40,000 metal and plastic device, the size of a bag of sugar and weighing 1½ lb, will stay in his body for the rest of his life or for as long as the device lasts. Unlike earlier artificial hearts, it is not intended simply to keep him alive until a donor heart becomes available for transplant.

The device does not replace the natural heart but helps it to carry out its most demanding function, pumping blood around the body. The patient, who has not been named, received the device in a four-hour operation on Thursday.

The operating team was led by the transplant surgeon John Wallwork, who said yesterday that the patient "is very well, wide awake and in very good shape". If all goes well, he will return home in due course, leading a virtually normal life.

Up to 20 more patients could be given the artificial hearts at Papworth over the next three years in the first clinical trials designed to assess their effectiveness as permanent implants.

The manufacturer, Baxter Novacor, said that it has used the device in test programmes for up to three years without failure. Some 250 have been implanted, mostly in the United States, and some for as long as a year, in patients who have gone on to have transplants.

The artificial heart, known as a Left Ventricular Assist Device, reinforces the pumping action of the left ventricle. Electric power comes from 6½ lb batteries worn on a belt around the waist and connected through the skin. The device keeps pace with the patient's natural heart under the control of a microprocessor outside the patient, which adjusts it immediately to any increase in demand.

The operation is the first in a trial planned by the hospital to assess the clinical effectiveness of the device. Eight patients will be chosen for a pilot study and divided into two groups, half having the device implanted and the other half continuing on normal medication. Their progress will be compared over two years.

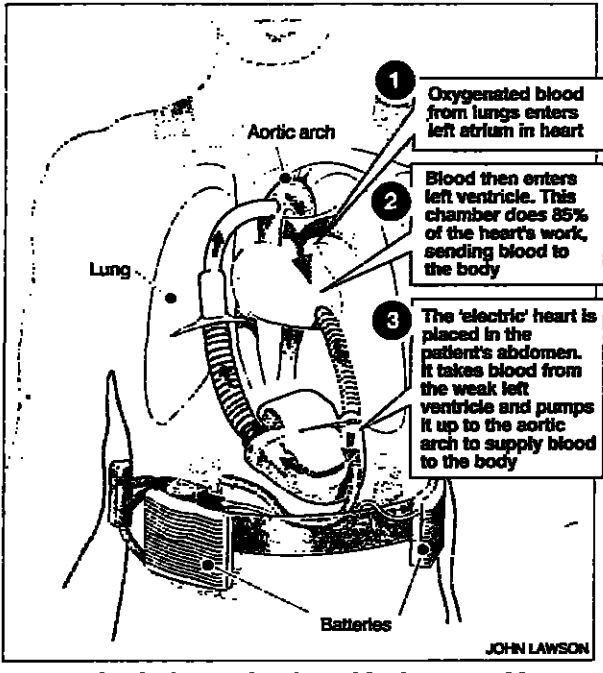
Mr Wallwork said: "The purpose of this trial is to evaluate the assist device as a permanent implant for patients with established irreversible cardiac failure."

The demand is potentially great. Between 35,000 and 70,000 people a year in the United States could benefit from such devices, according to estimates from the US National Academy of Sciences, and a comparable number in the rest of the world.

"We don't want to compare this with transplants at this stage," Mr Wallwork said. "But if it proves to be successful the next question is, is this device as good as a transplant? Artificial devices have problems in the same way as transplant organs. At this stage, it is too early to say what the outcome will be."

Julian Smith, a senior surgical registrar who took part in the operation, said: "It is a world first because this has been put in with the intent of the device being used as a permanent implant for an end-stage heart failure."

Continued on page 2, col 3



How the device works alongside the natural heart

Rail travellers claim millions

Railtrack faces claims totalling millions of pounds under the Citizen's Charter from travellers whose journeys have been disrupted by the signalmen's rail strikes.

Every strike day is already costing the company an estimated £10 million, and total losses are thought to be over £100 million. Page 2

Khmer Rouge escape foiled

Khmer Rouge guerrillas holding three Western hostages tried to break out of their mountain hideaway with their sickly captives yesterday, but were beaten back by 4,000 Cambodian troops. The hostage affair seems to be drawing to a close. Page 13

Hope for ceasefire

Hopes that the IRA will call a ceasefire were kept alive last night after a meeting between Sinn Féin leaders and an unofficial delegation of influential Irish-Americans. There were no clues to the timing or details. Page 2

State schools move up list of top 500

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

STATE schools are closing the gap on their independent rivals with a sharp increase in their number in *The Times* survey of the top 540 performers at A-level. They have 153 places, compared with 126 last year. Grammar schools lead the charge, but 38 comprehensives are included.

Westminster School tops the table for the second time in three years, followed by St Paul's School, London, Eton College and Winchester College. North London Collegiate is the top girls' school.

Independent schools dominate the top of the table, but David Summerscale, Westminster's headmaster, said they could not depend on continuing to do so. State schools would improve if the Government delivered a promised period of stability.

Top 500 schools, page 8
UCAS vacancies, page 9
Simon Jenkins, page 14

Hold-ups warning for holiday drivers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TWENTY million motorists will take to the country's roads and more than a million Britons will leave by sea and air this weekend — the busiest Bank Holiday of the summer.

More than 80 sets of roadworks have been suspended on motorways and major roads in an attempt to keep the country moving, but motoring organisations have warned travellers to expect delays.

With many people avoiding the railways because of Tuesday's planned two-day strike by signalworkers, roads are likely to be even more busy than a normal Bank Holiday.

The London Weather Centre forecasts breezy, showery conditions for much of the country, with only patches of sunny weather.

More than one million people will pass through London's three main airports, Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, by Tuesday morning. Travel agents report an increase in short-break holidays, and about 800,000 Britons are expected to fly to summer spots — an increase of 5 per cent on last year, according to the Association of British Travel Agents.

Most will be having late summer holidays, but around 50,000 will be taking short breaks: the most popular destinations are Paris, Amsterdam and Venice. A further 500,000 people are expected to cross the Channel by ferry.

The AA predicted last night that overheated engines would cause a high proportion of the 40,000 breakdowns expected this weekend. Motoring organisations say that there will be hold-ups in areas where cones remain because of essential repair work or unsafe surfaces.

The Notting Hill Carnival in London and the Reading Rock Festival both take place this weekend, and will add to the congestion.

Forecast, page 18
Choice, Weekend page 2
Travel, Weekend page 23

Tall people give short shrift to note of doom

BY BEN MACINTYRE AND JOE JOSEPH

MEMBERS of Britain's Tall Persons' Club were just sitting down to the opening dinner of their convention in London last night when their digestion was jolted by news from across the Atlantic that the human race is growing too tall for its own good. Putting it bluntly, tall people are destroying the planet.

The message of doom, aimed at their heart, came from Thomas Samaras, 5ft 10in, a Californian population expert. He argues in his new book, *The Truth About Your Height*, that as human beings grow taller and live longer, they are straining the earth's resources with dire environmental effects. For example, if Americans grow another 20 per cent in the next 75 years, he calculates, an additional 180 million acres will be required simply for food production. Britons and Germans are growing between half and three quarters of an inch each decade. Mr Samaras, an expert in the study of entropy, or the tendency of a system to decay over time, has a simple solution: make people shorter. "Carefully monitoring the diet of children — and I don't mean starving them — can restrict height by as much as 8 in."

His ideas fell on unresponsive ears at the London convention, whose participants feel their burdens are great enough without being blamed for the end of the world. "It takes my breath away," Lynn Davis, 6ft 2in, from Hereford, said. "It's not us who are to blame, it's people having 10 and 11 kids." For Phil Henricy, 6ft 8 in, who founded the club three years ago to ease the pain of being tall, life is grim enough at the top without Mr Samaras's criticism. "The world is down here," says Mr Henricy, slicing a palm across his chest. "And there are 1.2 million adults in Britain ranked as tall, that is around 6ft 3 in or more for men, and 5ft 10in plus for women."

Chat at the convention is dominated by swapped tallist anecdotes, about how they banged their head on a telephone kiosk ceiling or how the mirrors in that hotel were so low that shaving was impossible. For Anne Thorne, 6ft 1 in, of Wrexham, a boon of the club is "meeting men who aren't so screwed up that they aren't put off by tall women." Mick Jaeger, 6ft 7 in, avoids pubs: "People just pick fights."

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Sinn Fein leaders fuel hopes of IRA ceasefire

By John Hicks

HOPES that the IRA will announce a ceasefire were kept alive last night after a meeting between Sinn Fein leaders and an unofficial delegation of influential Irish-Americans.

However, there were no clues to the timing or details of the ceasefire, which is expected to be declared by the IRA Army Council next month. After three hours of talks, Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, was reluctant to comment but said that the peace process would move forward as a result of the meeting.

Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Fein strategist, refused to be drawn on the prospect of a ceasefire and said people should now "draw breath, stay calm and recognise there was still an on-going peace process". He

added: "We are very optimistic about that. I think the meeting today played a very important role in the furtherance of that peace process and I am optimistic for the future."

Bruce Morrison, a former congressman and leader of the American delegation, said the peace process was still on course. "Our general conclusion at the end of the meeting is to be optimistic about the possibilities that lie ahead for the peace process that's been going on for a year or more. It's in that hopeful mood that we have tried to provide our input and we are very pleased we have made this trip and responded to Sinn Fein's invitation."

He denied that Sinn Fein officials had given him any details of whether the IRA ceasefire would be open-ended or attached to political condi-

tions. "We are hopeful of a dramatic breakthrough."

Reports emanating from Dublin that the IRA would announce a ceasefire while the delegation was in Belfast have been discounted. A senior Republican source in Belfast said: "The American delegation will be back in New York when the ceasefire is announced, almost certainly in September. The group's involvement in the peace process is very welcome but we are not dancing to their tune."

Mr Morrison, a friend of President Clinton, said that he would be reporting back to the White House, although he had earlier described the delegation as a private group of US citizens.

After the meeting, Gerry Adams said: "The undoing of decades of

conflict and distrust will take a very considerable time but I think we can make considerable gains towards that road, until we almost get an irreversible thrust moving forward, and I think that we will see that sooner rather than later."

Last night Unionists, who have turned down invitations to meet the American delegation, poured scorn on the meeting with Sinn Fein. Jim Nicholson, an Ulster Unionist MEP, said: "We would not get involved in any talks with Sinn Fein unless there was a total cessation of violence without equivocation and that will only be considered as a first step on a very, very long road towards anything approaching political normality."

It is believed the finishing touches are being put to a constitutional

framework document being drafted by the British and Irish governments. Agreement is reported to have been reached on a sensitive constitutional disagreement over rival claims to the territory of Northern Ireland.

In return for the Irish government diluting its territorial claim on Northern Ireland, Britain has agreed to amend the Government of Ireland Act 1920, which claims the right to the province.

Both governments appear to be promoting the principle that it is for the people of Northern Ireland to determine where their allegiance should lie. The document is expected to form the main plank of discussion at the Anglo-Irish summit next month.

Geoffrey Wheatcroft, page 14

Brown urges inquiry into bank charges

The Labour Party demanded a fresh investigation into bank charges yesterday after it estimated that the four High Street banks had made a record £6.5 billion in charges to customers. It wants the banking ombudsman to be statutorily responsible for investigating charges.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said bank profits should be matched by a better deal for customers. The massive profits made by some banks should raise questions about how far profits and dividend payments were the result of increased efficiency, or of overcharging personal customers and small businesses, he added. According to Labour research, the introduction of new charges and rises in old charges mean that fees, commissions and charges by Midland, Lloyds, National Westminster and Barclays have risen from £4.5 billion in 1989 to £6.5 billion now.

Mr Brown's latest assault follows the recent announcement of £443 million half-year profits by Midland, up £58 million on the same period the previous year. Barclays earlier announced that it made a record £1.04 billion in the six months to June 30.

Men held in BT inquiry

Three people were being questioned by detectives last night over allegations that BT employees sold confidential details about customers. One of the men is believed to be a BT worker in Croydon, south London. The other men, arrested in the same area, do not work for BT. The arrests follow a lengthy investigation by Scotland Yard and BT into allegations about the sale of confidential records of telephone calls. Scotland Yard denied that the arrests were linked to nuisance calls made to the Chelsea home of Oliver Hoare, a friend of the Princess of Wales.

Car youth cautioned

The 14-year-old driver of a stolen car that dragged a girl 200 yds down a road with her fingers trapped in the door is to get a verbal caution. The youth, who cannot be named, was reported for taking a vehicle without the owner's consent and driving without a licence or insurance in Rotherham five months ago. Alana Jones, 15, suffered scars to her face and back and an injured finger. She was unconscious after the incident and off school for ten days. Her mother has had a letter from South Yorkshire Police informing her of the decision by Rotherham Youth Panel.

Drugs 'kill mentally ill'

Powerful tranquillisers are responsible for the deaths of one mentally ill person a week, the charity Mind claimed yesterday. It called for a government inquiry into the number of deaths caused by the drugs. In a report to Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, Mind says that no official statistics are kept on the number of deaths. Liz Sayce, its policy director, said: "Just last week the Government released details of 34 homicides committed by psychiatric patients, but we estimate there are four times as many victims of the psychiatric system itself."

Labour odds shorten

William Hill yesterday shortened the odds on Labour winning the next general election to 4-7 - the party's shortest odds since the April 1992 election. The bookmaker is also offering 5-4 against the Conservatives winning, and 40-1 against a Liberal Democrat victory. Graham Sharpe, a William Hill spokesman, said: "We haven't taken a significant bet for the Tories to win the next election for several weeks." However, the firm believes John Major will still be Conservative leader at the next election and quotes him at 1-4 to retain the leadership.

Actress over the limit



The television and film actress Amanda Donohoe was fined £500 yesterday for drink-driving. Donohoe, left, was also banned from driving for a year by magistrates at Marlborough Street Court, London. The court was told that Donohoe, 32, of Golders Green, north London, had almost double the alcohol limit when stopped in central London in the early hours of July 29.

Airline strike ballot

Air UK workers are to be balloted next month on taking industrial action over a pay dispute. Talks broke down after the airline offered a 2 per cent rise for this year in response to a 5 per cent claim by 1,000 engineers, cabin crew and reservations staff. Air UK serves Mediterranean holiday destinations on behalf of British tour operators.

'Superdad' dies at 58

John Knight, who became known as Superdad after fathering 21 children by his wife and mistress, has died at the age of 58. Mr Knight would jog a mile between the homes of his two families on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, but later split with both women. He is believed to have suffered a blood clot after injuring his leg while playing football.

Broadcasters 'too dependent on the Government'

By Alexandra Frean

BROADCASTERS have been sucked into a dependency culture by the Government's reforms to the industry, making them reliant on ministers for their future, television executives were told last night.

Greg Dyke, former chief executive of London Weekend Television, said the Broadcasting Act, which came into effect last year, had upset the delicate balance between business and broadcasting. Even the BBC had not escaped subservience to the Government and Mr Dyke said Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the governors, was effectively a Government appointee.

"We must never again be in a position where the government of the day can fill the board of governors of the BBC with their friends and placemen as the Thatcherites did in the Eighties. Nor should the chairman be the Government's man, as the present chairman quite clearly was and is," he said.

In a wide-ranging attack on the effects of the Act, which he described as "a piece of legislation so fundamentally flawed and so illogical it is hard to find a Conservative MP who now admits to willingly voting for it", Mr Dyke pointed out that he was able to speak his mind unlike previous speakers because he was unemployed, having resigned from LWT after its hostile takeover by the Granada Group.

Delivering the MacTaggart Memorial Lecture on the opening night of the Edinburgh International Television Festival to an audience of 500 leading broadcasters, Mr Dyke said: "The threats to the broadcasters' freedom to rock the boat or to expose... are not Norman Tebbit openly attacking the BBC or Marga-

ret Thatcher ranting and raving about programmes such as *Death On The Rock*. They are caused by the growth of a culture in which broadcasters are dependent on the actions of government in some case for their very existence and, in the commercial sector, for their financial success. This is not healthy for broadcasting."

Mr Dyke said that the 1990 Broadcasting Act had so damaged the potential profitability of ITV companies that they had become almost totally reliant on government for reform of the Act. "With broadcasters constantly wanting favour and legislative action from government, it gives the Government far too much power in the relationship."

The BBC was also too dependent on the Government, he said, even though it had just secured a renewal of its charter for ten years, because its new arrangement guaranteed its funding only for five years.

Mr Dyke, who resigned from LWT earlier this year after it was taken over by Granada Group, also criticised Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, and Gerry Robinson,

chief executive of the Granada Group, who together control four ITV licences. He said that they had bowed to government demands not to move *News At Ten* to an earlier time slot as they had originally planned last year, in the expectation that they would stand a better chance of persuading the government to change the ITV ownership rules by doing so. "For business reasons changing the ownership rules mattered more to them than the commercial advantages of moving *News At Ten*, so they bowed to the political pressure."

Mr Dyke added: "It is not the role of broadcasters to spend their time currying favour with government. The two have very different responsibilities to society and at best the relationship between them should be cool and detached."

As a first step to resolving those dilemmas and to protecting the rights of television journalists to free speech, Mr Dyke recommended the creation of an independent government broadcasting commission. Its main task would be to find a way of ensuring that broadcasting regulators are not responsible to the government but to some independent authority, possibly an all-party group within Parliament where no one party has an overall majority.

The commission should also ensure that regulations were applied equally to terrestrial and cable and satellite broadcasters. "We have to be able to offer the ITV companies, Channel 4 and possibly Channel 5 some sort of certainty in an uncertain commercial world. We have to end the position whereby they believe they can always get a bit more from the Government."



Bhindu Patel: "All I could think about was not letting him get away with this"

Brave baker foiled robber

A BAKERY assistant was praised by an Old Bailey judge yesterday for her "breath-taking courage" in helping to capture an armed robber. Mr Recorder Brian Higgs, QC, jailed the youth for six years and told him: "She has more courage in her little finger than you have in the whole of your body."

Bhindu Patel, 28, a mother of two, was called before the judge to receive her commendation. He told her: "Your courage was breathtaking."

You struggled and fought to detain this man in spite of the fact that he had threatened to kill you. Then, after you were knocked to the floor, you went after him."

Danny Noble, 18, from Islington, north London, had tried to rob the bakery in Finsbury, central London, where Mrs Patel worked. He pressed a gun into her stomach, demanded money and threatened to kill her. She knocked the weapon out of his hand and grabbed his leg

when he tried to escape. Her cries for help were heard by two BT engineers who subdued Noble until the police arrived.

Outside court Mrs Patel said: "My family are very proud of me, but everyone says I should have just given him the money. At the time all I could think about was not letting him get away with this."

Noble was found guilty of robbery and possessing an imitation handgun.

Railtrack faces Citizen's Charter claims

By Tim Jones
transport correspondent
RAILTRACK is facing compensation claims running into millions of pounds from passengers whose journeys have been severely disrupted by the signalmen's strikes.

The train operators have conceded the dispute has torpedoed their Citizen's Charter obligations to provide a reliable service.

Railtrack is hoping that during next week's 48-hour stoppage, which begins at midday on Tuesday, it will be able to run a record 50 per cent of its services. For the first

time since industrial action started in June, services will run from nearly all major cities.

Every strike day is costing an estimated £10 million, with total losses exceeding £100 million so far, and Graham Eccles, director of Network South Central, one of the new passenger operating units destined for privatisation, has told season ticket holders that they will be offered a refund or an extension next week.

In a letter to customers he says: "Railtrack is the sole provider of track access to train operating companies

and despite regular high-level dialogue between us and the company we are unable to provide you with train services that are predictable for each strike day."

Railtrack was unable to estimate the cost, but with 400,000 people travelling by train into London alone the total will run into further millions of pounds.

The prospect of further losses coincides with British Rail confirming that Aslef, the train drivers' union, was correct in telling its 14,500 members they had a legal right to refuse to drive trains if they

thought safety was being compromised.

Low Adams, Aslef general secretary, said solicitors had advised the union that drivers who decided not to run a train because of safety fears were protected under the 1993 Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act.

Train drivers have reported dozens of incidents in which they believe safety was compromised during recent strikes, some of which are still being investigated.

Holiday delays, page 1
Letters, page 15

Patient's metal heart

Continued from page 1
patient. Previously the intention has been to transplant, but some patients are not suitable for this."

The man who developed the artificial heart, Dr Peer Portner of the American Baxter Health Care Corporation, has spent 25 years refining the technology.

The safety record of such devices is good. Another company that makes them, Thermo Cardiosystems, of Woburn, Massachusetts, said there had been only one death from mechanical failure. Experience has also reduced the danger of blood clots forming inside the devices, breaking off, reaching the brain and

causing strokes. These dogged experiments in the early 1980s.

The costs of the operation and the pilot study of eight patients will be paid by Papworth Hospital from charitable donations. For a full trial involving 40 patients, additional funding will be needed.

The hospital, near Cambridge, has been a leader in organ transplantation for more than 15 years. Since January 1979, when the first transplant was carried out there, more than 500 patients have been given new organs.

Success with the device would mean new hope for patients who stand little chance of an organ transplant because they are too old and supplies of donor organs are never likely to be sufficient.

An alternative is to use hearts from pigs genetically engineered so that they are not rejected by the body, a programme in which Papworth has played a leading part. But the first test of this lies several years ahead.

Leading article, page 15

Leukaemia research

The Leukaemia Research Fund asks us to make it clear that it is an entirely separate organisation from the Leukaemia and Cancer Children's Fund, an official of which was suspended by the Court of Session, Edinburgh, last Friday.

Pamela on the loose in Paris

THE SUNDAY TIMES
As her five-year affair with Gianni Agnelli, the golden boy of Fiat, came to an end in 1952, Pamela [Harriman] realised she needed a new patron. Love became secondary behind taking care of her own needs. She targeted and chose carefully. Elie de Rothschild, scion of one of Europe's most distinguished and wealthiest families, was the willing candidate. As ever, her timing was impeccable.

How Pamela Harriman, now US ambassador to Paris, set her sights on another woman's husband - in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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Husband plants one on his wife

BY KATE ALDERSON

Holmoyd, left, and Gerry were armed with imitation gun



Ian Bell and the offensive rubber plant. Together they were no match for his wife

The couple, who were both divorcees, are divorcing after seven years of marriage, but yesterday Mr Bell said: "I still love Janet, I always have done, and I have never been interested in other women since we



Janet Bell: 'intensely jealous' of her spouse

"It all sounds a joke, but in the end it got to me and I could not take any more. I should not have attacked her with the rubber plant, that was wrong, but my nerves just snapped."

Gardening
Weekend, page 19

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

M Mitterrand is a victim of his county's legendary red tape. Livamar, a French-based company contracted to fill the water coolers at the president's official residence, the Elysée palace in Paris, has been unable to provide a native product because of regulations which make it almost impossible for firms

Mr Brown said the hot summer at home had also led to a boom in business supplying the estimated 60,000 water coolers in Britain.

"We are not really interested in expanding in Europe. There is such a growing market in this country."

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Faye Dunaway: suing for £4 million in damages



Real-life drama has surrounded the musical

Lloyd Webber ready for battle of writs

By GILES WHITTALL AND ANDREW PIERCE

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber is considering a counter-writ for defamation against Faye Dunaway, the actress who is suing him after being sacked from the musical *Sunset Boulevard*.

Lawyers will meet Sir Andrew and executives of the Really Useful Group at the weekend to consider the best way to respond to the £4 million lawsuit from Dunaway, 53, who is seeking damages for breach of contract, fraud and defamation.

Dunaway had been due to take over from Glenn Close in the Los Angeles production of the musical but was dropped by the producers in June because they felt that her singing was not up to standard. She said in a statement:

"I hope I am the last in a long line of artists who have come to this man's productions in good faith and suffered great personal and professional injury at his hands."

A rival writ for defamation is one of the options being considered by the Lloyd Webber camp.

Sir Andrew and the Really Useful Group issued a statement which said: "We will take the severest action against her insulting, damaging and defamatory remarks. Contrary to what she has said there is a long line of artists who have experienced great success through Andrew Lloyd Webber's creativity and his hugely successful musicals now playing across five continents."



Sir Andrew: considering legal riposte to Dunaway

Roadwork cones take a holiday

MORE than 80 sets of roadworks have been suspended on motorways and major trunk roads in an attempt to keep traffic moving over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Motoring organisations said, however, that problem areas would remain where traffic cones stayed in place because of essential repair work or unsafe surfaces.

With many travellers expected to avoid the railways because of next Tuesday's looming two-day strike by signallers, the roads are likely to be even busier, although people heading for the coast in search of sunshine could be disappointed. London Weather Centre forecasts breezy, showery conditions for much of the country with only sunny spells.

Airports are also likely to be extra busy this weekend with more than one million people expected to pass through London's three main airports: Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

Travel agents have reported a boom in short-break holidays. Around 800,000 Britons were expected to fly to the sun between today and Monday.

Forecast, Roadwatch, page 18

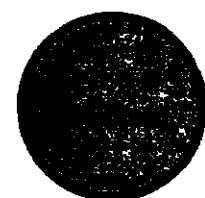
MONDAY IN THE TIMES

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M&S gives up fight to keep stores shut on Sundays

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MARKS and Spencer stores throughout England will be open tomorrow — the first time the company has traded on a Sunday since it was set up more than a century ago.

The Sunday Trading Act, which formally became law yesterday, removes historic anomalies of the kind that allowed shopkeepers to sell pornographic magazines but not Bibles on the Sabbath, and instant but not ground coffee. It also ends a long-running and vehemently fought battle in the retail industry.

A number of out-of-town shopping centres will join the rush to open on the Sabbath.

Other shops which were permitted to open will be able to sell the full range of goods that had been barred from sale on Sundays under the 1929 Shops Act.

Mark's and Spencer, which along with John Lewis and House of Fraser ran a high-profile campaign to stop all shops opening on Sundays, still maintains that seven-day trading is unprofitable. It says it cannot, however, afford to lose business and will therefore be opening 25 stores now the law has changed.

A spokeswoman said 15 stores would be open tomorrow, including five in Scotland that have been opening on Sundays over the past few weeks. In England ten will be open for the first time, including one in Blackpool which the company hopes will attract the tourist trade.

The rest of the M & S stores are on the edge of towns and include the Metro Centre in Gateshead, Meadowhall in Sheffield, Merryhill in the West Midlands, and Lakeside in Thurrock, Essex. An additional ten stores will open on September 4.

The M & S spokeswoman said: "We have to open in order not to lose our market share or to lose business. Most of the 285 stores will open in the run-up to Christmas."

The Metro Centre is opening tomorrow for its first day of Sunday trading and a spokesman said over 90 per cent of shops would be operating. At Meadowhall and Lakeside the majority of stores will be also open.

Waitrose, part of the John Lewis group, which claimed it had been losing business by obeying the law, says because of the Bank Holiday this weekend it will open 18 of its 108 supermarkets for the first time on a Sunday on September 4 and the remainder before Christmas.

John Lewis stores will not open on Sunday, although a spokesman said the company would be "watching developments carefully". Harrods, which has not opened on Sunday in its 150-year history, has announced it will open its doors on December 11 and 18 as "an experiment".

High-street customers are, however, unlikely to notice much difference this weekend because where local authorities have been lenient, DIY stores and supermarkets have been regularly opening on Sundays for the past three years.

Under the new Act, most of the larger shops, including supermarkets, DIY outlets, and out-of-town stores will be allowed to open for a maximum of six hours. Some have been apologising to customers that they will have to open for less time.

Mystery benefactor joins Buster fight

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MYSTERY benefactor has joined the fight to save Buster, the disputed pit bull terrier condemned to death by a court earlier this week.

Janet Payne, a former neighbour of the dog's owner and "Save Buster" campaign co-ordinator, announced moves for an appeal yesterday and said: "Someone has come forward, a serious benefactor who is disgusted with this case but wishes to remain anonymous, who has offered financial help."

She said she had had many telephone calls from people offering support and help. "This isn't over by a long way," she said, although they were "determined to kill this dog by hook or by crook, preferably by crook."

Earlier, the judge who on Tuesday rejected the latest attempt to save Buster, while at the same time granting a 21-day stay of execution in case of a further appeal, explained his reasons in court. Judge Gerber said Karen Brock's

appeal had failed because the evidence of three defence expert witnesses was "clouded" by their wish to save the dog.

He said the four-year-old tan-coloured dog should be destroyed despite the experts' evidence and a last-minute appeal from novelist and animal lover Jilly Cooper.

Miss Brock, a 22-year-old single mother, of Edgware, north London, had been trying at Wood Green Crown Court to reverse a destruction order imposed by magistrates who had convicted her of owning an unregistered pit bull.

Judge Gerber said: "We concluded that although the experts were trying to be fair, we were more impressed with the witnesses called by the respondents."

The judge ruled Buster's £5,000 kennelling costs should be met by Miss Brock but added that this should not be enforced without leave of the court. No order was made with regard to legal costs.

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BARCLAYS

Quangos 'better than elected councillors'

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

ELECTED councillors should be replaced by local government quangos, according to a discussion paper sent to Tory activists.

The paper was sent out in advance of the party's annual conference in October by the Conservative Political Centre, which monitors grassroots opinion for the party.

The centre argues that civic institutions must be given the freedom they need to serve local needs. "Local authorities may often tend to follow the [left-wing] party line rather than meet the needs of local people," the paper says.

It suggests the Government should create a framework to allow local institutions to identify how to obtain the high quality services needed in their community.

"In these circumstances the only role of the local authority would be to collect funds and distribute them to local institutions," the paper says.

"Customers want good and relevant services; committees claiming to be democratically accountable are often [comprised of] various vested inter-

est group members, such as local authority nominees and trade union officials, who aim to fulfill their own needs rather than meet those of the customer."

The paper says institutions such as grant maintained schools, GP fund-holders and NHS trusts are excellent examples of how local people can run their own affairs.

The paper was produced without reference to the party's local government wing but appears to be in line with the thinking of the Prime Minister. In a speech earlier this month, Mr Major said: "Sometimes we are told that you cannot have true accountability unless locally elected politicians monopolise all the local bodies involved in their area."

"I believe strongly in local government but I want to encourage other members of the community to give their expertise, get involved and take on more responsibility."

Pointing to the way in which new police authorities are to be set up to include nominated members, Mr Major said this

was how local talent could be used to serve the community.

A series of local government election disasters may have inspired the paper, but there are signs from recent by-election results that the Conservatives have slowed their headlong plunge at the polls.

The regular monthly survey of local government by-election results by the *Municipal Journal* indicates that in August the party is trailing Labour by only 10 per cent.

The results show that the swing to the left since 1991 in comparable by-elections is just 1 per cent, while the switch from Tory to Liberal Democrat averaged 3.3 per cent.

The Conservatives lost one seat to Labour, two to the Liberal Democrats and one to an independent. On the credit side they gained one from the Liberal Democrats in Kent and held a marginal seat in Norwich where the Liberal Democrats were confident of victory.

The results suggest that the Liberal Democrats are suffering from a possible "Blair effect".



Dr Rachel Mills, of Southampton University, is joint leader of the expedition

Scientists set sail on mission to the bottom of the sea

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A DARING, Jules Verne-style mission to study mysterious volcanoes 10,000ft beneath the Atlantic set sail from Southampton last night in the hope of gaining new clues to the origins of life.

The Anglo-Russian expedition, led by Dr Rachel Mills of Southampton University and Dr Adam Schultz of Cambridge University, will use Russian submersibles to investigate "hot springs" — or hydrothermal vents — where minerals and smoke gush into the surrounding waters and where unique creatures are thought to survive along one of Earth's longest mountain ranges.

The focal point of the expedition is 1,500 miles southwest of the Azores and almost two miles below the ocean's surface. Two sites, called Tag and Broken Spur, were discovered last year by the British research vessel *Darwin*.

The sites are characterised by huge metal-rich sulphide "chimneys" from which black or white smoke billows and water temperatures can climb as high as 400C. There is no light and the pressure is about 400 times greater than at the surface.

The life forms supported by these warm, mineral-rich worlds are only beginning to be understood, but their origins could be three billion years old. Curious species include tubeworms, single-celled organisms and an unnamed snake-like fish with large, bulging eyes.

The expedition, which comprises 50 people, will investi-

gate the two vents using the oft submersibles, which are kited out with light systems and an array of sampling devices.

Dr Mills, 27, said that the Russian diving vessels would carry two pilots and a scientist in cramped conditions. "It's dark and it's cold and you are down there for hours, so it's pretty uncomfortable," she said. "But what is out there is so fantastic it takes your mind off it."

Specially developed instruments will take measurements and samples at the sites, to be analysed on the Russian research vessel *Akademik Mstislav Keldysh*.

The project is part of a multi-million-pound five-year programme funded through the Natural Environment Research Council, which said that the sites were home to unusual and exotic animal communities of which scientists knew relatively little.

A spokesman for the research council said: "These oases of life may have been around for hundreds of millions of years, perhaps even to the dawn of time, yet their existence was unknown until the 1970s when American scientists on board a deep-sea submersible first discovered the strange creatures in the Pacific Ocean."

Researchers from a wide range of disciplines are taking part in the project. Preparations for the voyage were being completed at Southampton yesterday, with stores being loaded on board. The ship is expected to return in October.

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Head should rule the heart of faith

Edward Norman

Christianity needs to recover intellectual confidence and to assert that it does not exist upon sentiment but upon a distinct and exclusive doctrinal structure. There are many today who suppose that informed people, people who think for themselves, will transcend religious differences and realise that the divine is in reality expressed in all great movements of the human spirit, in all religions. There is doubtless some truth in that. But it is then a short step, now often taken, to claiming that all religions are therefore in effect the same. God is then defined in general terms for themselves. The less credible to all people of goodwill. It is an attitude which considerably assists the intellectual undermining of Christianity, whose beliefs are anyway subjected, in western societies, to all kinds of hostile criticism which are not raised against other "world faiths".

There is a paradox here: the ancient world, among whose cultures Christianity began, believed a precise historical and cultural location necessary in order to establish veracity. The modern mind, on the other hand, prefers higher values to be general and, furthermore, to be flattering to human self-esteem: people can arrive at them through their own virtues. In ancient societies the universal was known about because it had a particular expression in the world.

The Christian doctrine of the Incarnation is a clear demonstration of the universal being known in local material categories: God became a man, in concrete

historical circumstances. Yet it is precisely this historical precision, and this use of cultural materials, which today disturbs the modern mind. Our God has become an ethical impulse. And those who seek something more find it not in the historical God of exact revelation but in a species of neo-magic New Age fantasy, spooky intimations of life after death or whatever.

The paradox is enhanced by the fact that it is educated people, not the ignorant, who look for a generalised God: those of intellectual understanding need a religion they can put together for themselves. The less gifted tend to see religion as a "feel-good" addition to life. Increasingly, their God is a product of emotional need, a beautiful if vague idea, a dimension of therapy. What both dispositions have in common is that they empty religion of doctrine.

Yet the nature of God as revealed in Christ is actually very demanding and exact. Men and women are called to be citizens of an earthly city in preparation for the heavenly one that is to follow, and that preparation involves assent to precise doctrines. The astonishing truths were nowhere better explained than in the writings of St Augustine of Hippo, whose feast day falls tomorrow. It is terrible to think that a millennium and a half after he wrote, so little of the intellectual structure of Christianity seems known to this generation.

Edward Norman is Chaplain of Christ Church College, Canterbury

THE TIMES

Exclusive Aladdin Stamps offer

The Walt Disney stamps offer which appears on page nine of the Weekend section today, can be collected by completing the coupon on that page and sending it to the given address together with a cheque or postal order for £1.75 to cover p&p.

Alternatively, readers can collect the stamps for free by presenting the completed coupon from page nine at any of the following collection points between 10am-12 noon and 2pm-4pm on Friday September 9 (note that only one free set of stamps per household is allowed): Scotland: Global Video, 12-14 Moss Side Road, Shawlands, Glasgow. North: Fox & Hayes, Bank House, 150 Roundhay Road, Leeds. South East: MFA Ltd, 10 Ashton Gate, Ashton Road, Romford, Essex. South West: R&L, 5 Bishop Road, Cleve, Bristol.

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

the table because they fell short of the entry threshold of 15 candidates. Flynor House, a mixed independent school in Swansea, would have finished sixth with its 12 candidates averaging 27.5 points.



By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

Times table two years ago, expects up to half of its 150 candidates to win places at Oxford or Cambridge. Westminster is among the most selective schools in Britain. Interviews and written tests take place at age ten before the final hurdle of interviews and the Common Entrance.

State schools in bold type

	No. of pupils	score av'ge
--	---------------	----------------

Westminster School, London, <i>mixed</i>	150	31.0
St Paul's School, London, <i>boys</i>	135	30.7
Elton College, Widdow, <i>boys</i>	285	30.4
Wendover College, Wendover, <i>boys</i>	143	30.3
North London Collegiate School, Edgware, <i>girls</i>	125	28.8
Royal Grammar School, Guildford, <i>boys</i>	112	27.7
Manchester Grammar School, Manchester, <i>boys</i>	167	27.5
King's College School, London, <i>boys</i>	126	27.0
Redley College, Abingdon, <i>boys</i>	115	26.9
Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton, Gr. Lon, <i>girls</i>	115	26.9
St Paul's Girls' School, London, <i>girls</i>	100	26.9
Dorset House, Newbury, Berks, <i>girls</i>	78	26.8
King Edward School, Birmingham, <i>boys</i>	127	26.7
King Edward VI High Sch. for Ges, Birmingham, <i>girls</i>	81	26.7
Bradford Grammar School, Bradford, <i>md</i>	148	26.5
Milner Girls' College, Harrogate, <i>girls</i>	63	26.4
Hadfield's Aske's School, Borehamwood, <i>boys</i>	157	26.1
Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe, <i>girls</i>	73	26.1
Widrigton Girls' School, Harrogate, <i>girls</i>	31	26.0
Guildford High School for Girls, Guildford, <i>girls</i>	54	25.8
South Hampstead High School, London, <i>girls</i>	77	25.7
Barnard Castle School, <i>md</i>	37	25.7
Hadfield's Aske's Sch (Gr. Lon), <i>Estrae, girls</i>	115	25.6
Abingdon School, Abingdon, <i>boys</i>	103	25.6
St Nicholas' College School, London, <i>boys</i>	98	24.5
Oundle School, Peterborough, <i>md</i>	184	25.5
Chesham Ladies' College, Chesham, <i>girls</i>	132	25.5
Weston School, Brighton, <i>girls</i>	71	25.4
City of London School, Chesham, <i>boys</i>	116	25.2
Geese School, Cambridge, <i>boys</i>	85	25.2
Princes Risborough School, High Wycombe, GMI, <i>est, boys</i>	265	25.1
Godolphin & Lymm School, Chesham, <i>boys</i>	102	25.1
King's School, Canterbury, <i>boys</i>	151	25.0
King Edward VI Grammar, Cheshamford, GMI, <i>est, mixed</i>	104	24.0
Perse School for Girls, Salisbury, <i>girls</i>	74	24.0
Brighton & Hove High School Brighton, <i>girls</i>	58	23.9
Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, Kent, <i>boys</i>	137	24.0
Epworth School, Epworth, S. Yorks, <i>md</i>	149	24.0
Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, Gr. Lon, <i>boys</i>	158	24.7
Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury, <i>boys</i>	145	24.7
Walsley School, Reading, <i>girls</i>	104	24.6
Bablake School, Coventry, <i>md</i>	92	24.4
Notting Hill & Ealing High School, London, <i>girls</i>	61	24.4
Osford High School, Oxford, <i>md</i>	93	24.3
Queen's School, Chester, <i>girls</i>	65	24.3
Queen's House, Godalming, Surrey, <i>boys</i>	198	24.2
City of London School for Girls, London, <i>girls</i>	74	24.1
Queen's School, Chester, <i>boys</i>	60	24.1
Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Kent, <i>md</i>	190	24.0
Westminster School, London, <i>md</i>	155	23.9

Portsmouth Grammar School, Portsmouth, mxd	93	34.0
Wimborne High School, London, gits	91	34.0
St Helen & St Katharine, The School of Abingdon, gits	58	24.0
Lancing College, Lancing, W Sussex, boys	115	23.9
Mechen's Taylors' School, Northwood, G Lon, boys	115	23.9
St Rolyne's Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, boys	92	23.9
Rugby School, Rugby, mxd	147	23.8
James Allen's Girls' School, London, gits	91	23.8
Nottingham High School, Nottingham, gits	116	23.7
Croydon High School, South Croydon, gits	80	23.7
Wokingham School, Wokingham, Surrey, gits	52	23.7
St Saviour's School, Winchester, gits	46	23.7
York College for Girls, York, gits	16	23.7
St Albans High School for Girls, St Albans, gits	82	23.6
Northwch High School for Girls, Northwch, gits	71	23.5
Manchester High School for Girls, Manchester, gits	92	23.4
Herberts Barnet School, Barnet, mxd	80	23.4
Manorhead School, Manorhead, boys	80	23.4
Higginbotham School, Bradford, mxd	69	23.3
Healdrow School, Oxford, gits	33	23.3
Barnesdon School, Cranborne, Kent, gits	50	23.3
Barnet Grammar School, Barnet, mxd	136	23.2
Marshall Taylors' School, Liverpool, boys	59	23.2
St Mary's School, Lichfield, Wals, gits	29	23.2
Bradford Girs' Grammar School, Bradford, gits	79	23.1
Judd School, Tordridge, Kent, sel, boys	94	23.0
Newstead Wood for Girls, Orpington, GMS, sel, gits	91	23.0
Yerlough College, Colchester, Benis, boys	163	22.9
Channing School, London, gits	25	22.9
Wilton School, South Croydon, G Lon, boys	128	22.8
Leeds Grammar School, Leeds, gits	120	22.8
Sutton High School, Sutton, G Lon, gits	65	22.8
Portsmouth High School, Southsea, Hants, gits	63	22.8
Purley High School, London, gits	61	22.8
Poynam Hall School, Darlington, sel, gits	49	22.8
Ladywell School, Enfield, GMS, sel, mixed	182	22.7
Warwick School, Warwick, boys	106	22.7
Clevedon High School for Girls, GMS, sel, gits	168	22.7
Elfram College, London, boys	93	22.7
St Catherin School, Caterham, Surrey, boys	83	22.7
St Helen's School, Northwood, G Lon, gits	80	22.7
Durham High School, Durham, gits	111	22.7
Cranleigh School, Cranleigh, Surrey, gits	132	22.6
Nottingham High School, Nottingham, mxd	114	22.6
St James' School, Bournemouth, GMS, sel, boys	85	22.6
Barton School (Boys' Day), Bolton, boys	112	22.5
Loughborough High School, Loughborough, gits	73	22.5
St Mary's School, South Auck, Blane, gits	41	22.5
St James' School, St James' School, sel, mxd	71	22.5

Sharborne School For Girls, Sharborne, Dorset, girls	77	22.4
Sr William Perkins's School, Chertsey, Surrey, girls	79	22.4
Barnst of School, Woodford Green, Essex, med	97	22.3
Canterbury School, Newcastles-upon-Tyne, med	83	22.3
Chagwell School, Chagwell, Essex, boys	89	22.3
Hampton Hall, Havering, Kent, girls	95	22.3
Walworth School, Oakham, Leics, med	129	22.2
Sharborne School, Sharborne, Dorset, boys	127	22.2
Kirk Edward's School, Bath, boys	109	22.2
Berkhamstead School for Girls, Berkhamstead, Herts, girls	50	22.2
Bedford Modern School, Bedford, boys	128	22.2
Northwood School, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, boys	82	22.1
Grange School, Northwich, Cheshire, med	57	22.1
Tarnfield School, Gildardale, girls	34	22.1
Sculthorpe School, Sculthorpe, Norfolk, boys	104	22.1
Thriftle School, Kingston-upon-Thames, GM, sel, boys	110	22.0
Dean Close School, Cheltenham, med	81	22.0
Kingsmen and Grange School, Lincs, sel, girls	76	22.0
Pleasant High School, Bristol, girls	56	22.0
Ladies College, Queney, girls	36	22.0
Tutor Hall School, Barnley, girls	26	22.0
Brentford High School, Brentford, girls	102	21.9
Reading School, GM, sel, boys	98	21.9
Merchant Taylors' School for Girls, Liverpool, girls	76	21.9
Oakton School, N. Reading, Berks, boys	66	21.9
Goldsmith County High School, Lincs, girls	200	21.9
Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham, sel, boys	160	21.8
Kirk Edward VI School, Southampton, boys	147	21.8
Donmington High School for Boys, sel, boys	73	21.8
Leicester Grammar School, Leicester, girls	21	21.8
Maynard School, Esher, girls	52	21.8
Loughborough Grammar School, Loughborough, boys	130	21.7
Berkhamstead School, Berkhamstead, Herts, boys	62	21.7
Mapleford College School, Oxford, boys	61	21.7
Red Meads School, Bristol, girls	57	21.7
Talbot Heath School, Bournemouth, girls	43	21.7
Newport Girls' High School, Newport, sel, girls	38	21.7
Finch Hall School, Clermont Gate, London, girls	31	21.7
Hewitt's School, Dursley, N. Wilt, girls	24	21.7
London College, London, boys	180	21.8
Hampton School, Hampton, St. Lm, boys	120	21.6
Boston School (Girls Div), Boston, girls	104	21.6
Tierzy School, Croydon, boys	101	21.6
Walsley High School, Walsley, W. Yorks, girls	91	21.6
Wolverhampton Grammar School, Wolverhampton, med	91	21.6
St Mary's School, Shaftesbury, Dorset, sel	28	21.6
Sturges College, Sturges, Norfolk, girls	84	21.5
Leeds Girls' High School, Leeds, girls	83	21.5
St Leonards-Mayfield School, Mayfield, E. Sussex, girls	73	21.5

THE RESULTS ARE

THIS first full comparison of last week's A and AS level results covers state and independent schools in England and Wales.

The ranking is compiled from the average university entrance score per candidate. An A grade at A level is worth ten points, B eight, C six, D four and E two. At AS level, an A is worth five points, B four, C three, D two and E one.

ed in *The Times* table because of demand from schools. Last year's table was calculated on A levels alone, but a number of head teachers were anxious that all their pupils' efforts were reflected.

Most of the independent schools' results were supplied by the Independent Schools Information Service. State school results were collected in a *Times* survey.

State schools in bold type	No of pupils	A level score avg
Queen Anne's School, Caversham, Berks, girls	53	21
Hume Grammar School for Girls, Osheim, girls	51	21
King's School, Worcester, mixed	137	21
Mil Hill School, London, boys	98	21
Baclet School, Nottingham, comp, mixed	74	21
Bentley School, Worcester, mixed	116	21
Daumsey's School, nr Devizes, Wilt, boys	113	21
Bodaleys School, Petersfield, Hants, mxd	69	21
Aide Cley School, Worcester, girls	69	21
Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, mixed	138	21
Byranton School, Blandford, Dorset, mxd	130	21
Malvern College, Malvern, Hereincs, mixed	130	21
Laymer Lodge School, Worcester, mixed	105	21
Royal Grammar School, Worcester, boys	83	21
Harledeahusen' Mornmouth School for Girls, Mornmouth	69	21
West's Grammar School, Wotton Bassett, Glos, self, mixed	101	21
Alley's School, London, mxd	107	21
Trent College, Nottingham, mxd	103	21
Queen Mary's High School, Walsall, Glos, self, girls	79	21
Howell's School, Llandoff, Cardiff, girls	68	21
John Lyon School, Harrow, Gt. Lon, boys	67	21
King's School, Rochester, Kent, mixed	65	21
Queen Margaret's School, York, girls	35	21
St Catherine's School, Guildford, girls	34	21
Bedford School, Bedford, boys	142	21
Bedford High School, Bedford, girls	104	21
Ipswich School, Ipswich, girls	99	21
Bucknash High School, Bucknash, Gt. Lon, girls	29	21
Essex School, Essex, boys	111	20
Overdale Home School, Ludlow, Cheshire, mxd	102	20
Arnold School, Blackpool, mxd	91	20
Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk, mxd	86	20
Stretton's High School, Stretton, girls	40	20
Wymondham High, Norfolk, comp, mixed	38	20
Bedford School, York, mxd	27	20
Bedfordshire College, Bedfordshire, Wills, mxd	165	20
Fetislov School, Durnovo, Essex, mxd	79	20
Wallington School, Wellington, Somerset, mxd	80	20
Hereford Cathedral School, Hereford, mxd	72	20
Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol, boys	72	20
King's High School for Girls, Walsand, girls	61	20
Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Staffs, mixed	134	20
Trent's Hospital, Hereford, W. Sussex, mixed	105	20
St Albans School, St Albans, boys	99	20
Bedford School, Bedfordshire, mxd	35	20
King Edward VI Camp Hill Schs, Glos, self, girls	70	20
Streatsall Hill & Osiam High School, Gt. London, girls	107	20
Hayesbury, Hereford, mixed	127	20
Shakespeare Grammar, Lincs, Gd, self, mixed	80	20
St John's College, London, mixed	100	20

Calton High School, Braid, gts	44	20.5
Richmond, N York, com, mixed	102	20.4
Bromley High School, Bromley, Kent, gts	69	20.4
Seaboard College, Seaboard, Kansas, boys	108	20.3
Turnbridge Wells Grammar School, Kent, sel, girls	106	20.3
Stratford upon Avon Grammar School for Girls, sel, girls	60	20.3
San Hill School, Walsby, Gt. Gt. Ouse, gts	108	20.3
Tetherhall College, Wolverhampton, mixed	26	20.3
Seabrogh School, Seabrogh, Cumbria, boys	72	20.2
Ipswich High School, Ipswich, gts	40	20.2
St Christopher School, Letchworth, Herts, mixed	102	20.2
Royal Grammar, Lancaster, Gt. Gt. Ouse, boys	122	20.1
Tiffin Girls' Schol, Kingston-upon-Thames, sel, girls	90	20.1
Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove, Worew., mixed	87	20.1
St John's School, Kingston Upon Thames, gts	51	20.1
Purtoch House, Colwyn Bay, gts	29	20.1
Stockton Grammar, Stockton-on-Tees, mixed	104	20.1
St Edward's School, Oxford, boys	123	20.0
Bournemouth School, Dorset, Gt. Ouse, gts	122	20.0
King Edward VI Grammar School, Gt. Gt. Ouse, boys	123	20.0
Easterton School, Kintley London, Gt. Ouse, gts	48	20.0
Bewkesfield High School, Bucks, Gt. Ouse, sel, girls	120	19.8
Wentworth Grammar School, Gt. Ouse, sel, girls	72	19.8
Sheffield High School, Sheffield, gts	56	19.9
Northampton High School, Northampton, gts	57	19.9
Temple School, Doncaster, Sunny, gts	35	19.9
Fresh School, London, boys	117	19.9
King Edward VII Handsworth Schol, Blm, Gt. Ouse, sel, girls	113	19.8
Wellington High School, Gt. Ouse, sel, girls	93	19.8
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Walsley, boys	90	19.8
Teesside High School for girls, Stockton-on-Tees, gts	28	19.8
Headfield School, Acad. Bank, gts	25	19.8
Wycombe High School, Bucks, gts	125	19.8
Southend High, Essex, Gt. Ouse, sel, boys	109	19.7
Plymouth College, Plymouth, boys	109	19.7
St Andrew's Prep, mixed	167	19.7
Colchester Royal Grammar School, Gt. Ouse, sel, boys	87	19.7
St John's School, Leatherhead, Sunny, boys	68	19.7
Argentea Schol, Woking, Gt. Ouse, gts	22	19.7
St Michael's School, Llanelli mixed	15	19.7
Tombridge Grammar Schol for Girls, Kent, Gt. Ouse, sel, girls	131	19.6
Canterbury School, Winton, Dorset, boys	101	19.6
St Mary's School, Cambridge, gts	95	19.6
Westchill High Schol for Boys, Essex, Gt. Ouse, sel, boys	106	19.5
Stamford High School for Girls, Stamford, Lincs, gts	95	19.5
Hunstanton College, Gt. Ouse, gts	34	19.5
St Thomas More School, Gateshead, com, mixed	49	19.5
St. John's School, Gloucester, mixed	44	19.5
Northwood College, Weymouth, Gt. Ouse, gts	34	19.5
Headfield School, Pinner, Gt. Ouse, gts	31	19.5

Hessmanan High School, Comp. mixed	230	19.4
Aylesbury Grammar School, Gals, excl. boys	155	19.4
Kirk's School, Macclesfield, boys	126	19.4
Hyngfa College, Hwl. Hunnor, mixed	89	19.4
Highwell Grammar School, Gals, excl. girls	67	19.4
Kirk's School, Tynemouth, mixed	75	19.4
Kirk David High, Liverpool, comp, mixed	65	19.4
Edgworth High School for Gals, Birmingham, gals	57	19.4
Ardent School, Gals, excl. boys	53	19.4
Farnborough High, Farnborough, Hant. gals	49	19.4
Yarm School, Yarm, Cleveland, boys	48	19.4
Barkston School, Sheffield, boys	36	19.4
St George's School, Ascot, Berks.	31	19.4
Cranebrook School, Kent, Gals, excl. mixed	122	19.3
Stamford School, Stamford, Lincs. boys	100	19.3
St John's School, Marlborough, Gals, comp, mixed	88	19.3
Downside School, Bath, boys	86	19.3
Langley Grammar School, Slough, Gals, excl. mixed	62	19.3
Port Park College, Ban, mixed	60	19.3
Trinity School, Gals, excl. boys	58	19.3

THE "COMMONS"

included because of the separate examination system. The 41 schools listed by ISIS include such famous names as Gordonstoun and Fettes College, but the combination of A levels and higher makes them impossible to include in a table such as this.

Many heads remain opposed to the compilation of league tables because they

curricular activities or the quality of intake. The ranking is *not intended to denote the best schools*, but simply those with the leading examination results.

Some state schools chose not to submit their results. A parallel table of GCSE results will appear in *The Times* next Saturday.

Research by Jo Bowers, Sarah

State schools in bold type	No of pupils	A few schools
Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar, Lancs, Gls, <i>seal</i> , mixed	114	11
King Henry VIII, Croydon, <i>med</i>	111	11
Dane Hall Harpur School, Bedford, <i>gls</i>	83	8
Spaulding High School, Linco, <i>seal</i> , girls	87	18
St Benedict's School, London, <i>boys</i>	88	11
Leys School, Cambridge, <i>boys</i>	81	11
Barley Grammar School, Barley, W Yorks, <i>boys</i>	71	7
Woodbridge School, Woodbridge, Suffolk, <i>med</i>	88	10
James Cliffton College, Carlisle, <i>Comp, mixed</i>	81	10
St Edmund's School, Ware, Herts, <i>med</i>	50	16
Leighton Park School, Reading, <i>med</i>	47	17
City of London Freeman's Sch, Ashford Park, Surrey, <i>med</i>	46	15
St Fews School, Scutcliffe, <i>gls</i>	47	15
Darby High School, Darby, <i>gls</i>	24	13
Uppington School, Uppington, Leics, <i>boys</i>	168	19
Regate Grammar School, Brighton, <i>seal</i>	100	10
Wells Cathedral School, Wells, Somerset, <i>med</i>	80	10
Barnham Grammar, Bucks, <i>seal</i> , mixed	67	7
St Ephraim's School, Maccles, Dorset, <i>gls</i>	28	15
Princess Helena College, Hitchin, Herts, <i>gls</i>	125	15
Otton College, Bristol, <i>med</i>	126	15
Dr Chatterton's High School, Arnhem, <i>seal</i> , girls	124	19
Woodward County High Schol, Redford, <i>seal</i> , girls	92	10
St Olave's Grammar Schol, Orpington, Gls, <i>seal</i> , boys	91	19
Dartford Grammar School, Kent, Gls, <i>seal</i> , boys	86	18
Ermerston's Grammar School, Ripdon, <i>seal</i> , boys	67	17
The Grammar Schol for Girls, Widdingham, Gls, <i>seal</i> , girls	50	17
Colyton Grammar School, Devon, Gls, <i>seal</i> , mixed	46	15
Dunroser School, Reggate, Surrey, <i>gls</i>	32	16
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, boys	177	18
London Oratory, London, Gls, <i>seal</i> , mixed	194	18
Stowe School, Buckingham, boys	122	18
Bury Grammar School (Girls), Bury, Lancs, <i>gls</i>	88	18
Pockney's School, York, <i>med</i> , boys	78	18
Bradfield College, Reading, boys	125	19
Truro School, Truro, <i>med</i>	119	18
St Peter's School, York, <i>med</i>	86	18
Cherwell Valley, Bedford, <i>seal</i> , mixed	85	18
Queen's College London, London, <i>gls</i>	48	18
Colburn Hall School, nr Gravesend, Kent, <i>gls</i>	22	18
Hill High School, Andover, Hants, <i>seal</i> , boys	18	18
Pocock Grammar School, Dorset, Gls, <i>seal</i> , boys	116	18
St William Borlase's Grammar, Bucks, Gls, <i>seal</i> , <i>free</i>	210	18
Mount School, York, <i>gls</i>	85	18
Holy Trinity College, Bromley, Kent, <i>gls</i>	123	18
Francis Holland School, London, <i>seal</i>	18	18
Manor School, Street, Somerset	207	18
Widdowson Grammar School, <i>free</i> , house	200	18

Bournemouth Girls, Dorset, GMI, <i>sen</i> , girls	108	78
Kent College, Canterbury, Kent	75	18
King Edward School, Bath, <i>sen</i>	103	78
Kingston Grammar School, Kingston upon Thames	72	18
Wesbach Grammar School, Wesbach, Cambs	67	18
Regent Pigeon, Alton, Hants, <i>sen</i> , comp, mixed	67	18
Collyard School, Bury St Edmunds	51	18
Royal Wolverhampton School, Wolverhampton	43	18
Crabham Hunt School, South Gosport, Gr Lon	32	18
Rowington School, Rowington, Notts	31	18
Coverleigh Comp, South Glasborough, comp, mixed	29	18
Wellingborough School, Northants	26	18
Stonyhurst College, Cisleuth, Lancs	21	18
Monkton Combe School, nr Bath, Avon	71	78
St Dunstan's College, London	62	18
St John's College High, <i>sen</i> , boys	103	78
Bishop of Llandaff, Cardiff, comp, mixed	100	18
King Edward VI Five Ways, Birmingham, GMI, <i>sen</i> , boys	94	78
Butten and Chalfonts, Bucks	90	18
Bury Grammar School, Bury, Lancs, boys	70	18
Wolverhampton Girls' High School, GMI, <i>sen</i> , girls	67	18
North School, Craven, Yorks	63	18
Camel College, Westlingford, Oxon, mixed	37	18
Notre Dame Senior School, Osbarn, Surrey, girls	36	18
Deane Alden Grew's School, <i>sen</i> , comp, mixed	29	18
Statham School, nr Banbury, Oxon, boys	19	18
St Lawrence College, Ramsgate, Kent, mixed	14	18
Colston's Girls' School, Bristol	54	18
Godolphin School, Salisbury, Wilt, girls	44	18
Catolter Grammar School, Lincs, GMI, <i>sen</i> , mixed	39	18
St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria, mixed	37	18
Linchester High School for Girls, Leicesters	32	18
Tarquay Boys, Devon, GMI, <i>sen</i> , boys	120	18
King Edward VI, Aston, Birmingham, GMI, <i>sen</i> , boys	87	78
Queen Elizabeth's, Huddersfield, Lincs, GMI, <i>sen</i> , girls	82	18
Wotton Boys Grammar School, Bucks	79	18
Kimston School, Huntingdon, Cambs, mixed	76	18
John Taylor High, Burton on Trent, comp, mixed	64	18
Wyke School, York, <i>sen</i> , boys	55	18
Lord Wandersworth College, nr Basingstoke, Hants, mixed	40	18
Canterbury High, Powers, comp, mixed	29	18
Walsingham High School, Norfolk	27	18
Watford Grammar Schol for Girls, GMI, Comp, girls	114	18
Hutton Grammar School, Preston, Lincs, comp, mixed	114	18
St Bede's College, Manchester, mixed	110	18
Northwell School, Leicesters	106	18
Barnard Castle School, Barnard Castle, Durham, boys	67	18
Oldswold Park Grammar, Wiltshire, GMI, <i>sen</i> , boys	65	18
Adams Grammar School, <i>sen</i> , GMI, <i>sen</i> , girls	59	18
New Hall School, Okehampton, Exeter, girls	52	18

St Dunstan's Abbey School, Plymouth, girls	26	184
St Dunstan's School, Morley, Scotland, mixed	102	717
Queen Mary's Grammar School, Gt. St. Marys, girls	91	641
Behagh's Standard College, Liverpool's Standard, boys	71	175
The Eliza Cook School, Liverpool, comp, mixed	111	175
Simon Langton Girls' Canterbury, Gt. St. Marys	105	717
St Margaret's School for Girls, Gt. St. Marys	41	175
High For Girls, Gloucester, ext, girls	37	174
Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, boys	36	174
Rural School of Music, Harrow On The Hill, mixed	26	174
St Albans' Church School, Harrow, mixed	29	174
Canterbury Girls Grammar, Winchester, ext, girls	36	173
Chesham's School of Music, Manchester, mixed	49	173
Monson Hall School, Canterbury, Belg. girls	37	173
St James' Independent Sch. for Boys, London, boys	17	21
Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby, ext, boys	91	174
Simon Langton Girls Grammar, Canterbury, ext, boys	78	173
Queen Elizabeth's Sch. West, York	99	174
Marling, Stowton, Glouce, Gt. St. Marys	67	174
St Antony's Llewellyn School, Sharnbrook, Dorset, girls	43	174
Kelly College, Thetford, Norfolk, mixed	26	174

State schools in bold type

	No of pupils	Se
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Victoria College, Jersey, boy	59
Rydal School, Colwyn Bay, mixed	59
Repton School, Derby, mixed	120
Boston High School, Lincoln, sat, mixed	80
The King's School, Grantham, Gt. Gt. East, boys	79
Queenswood School, Hatfield, Herts, girls	52
Plymouth High for Girls, Devon, sat, girls	50
Stained Grammar School, Glamorgan, sat, girls	84
The Harvey Grammar, Folkestone, Kent, sat, boys	94
Collis's School, London, boys	83
Charters, Acoot, Berks, comp, mixed	48
Fransham Heights, Farnham, Surrey, mixed	24
La Sagette Convent High School, Newcastle-U-Tyne, girls	24
St Mary's School, Garmouth, Glamorgan, girls	80
Tonguey Girls Grammar, Devon, sat, girls	118
Quorn High, Chesham, Surrey, Gt. East, girls	108
Taunton Road, Taunton, Somerset, sat, girls	102
Willoughby Grammar, Walsley, Gt. East, boys	90
Sir Thomas Rich's, Chichester, Gloucestershire, sat, mixed	86
Luckley-Catfield School, Wokingham, Berks, girls	20
Wesleyan School, Cardiff, Glamorgan, sat, girls	16
Maldenstone Girls Grammar, Kent, sat, girls	158
John Hampden Grammar, High Wycombe, sat, boys	108
St Giles Grammar, Salisbury, Gt. East, girls	101
Higghstead School, Stifford, Leicestershire, Kent, sat, girls	101
Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar, Wiltshire, Gt. East, boys	67
Wallingford County Grammar, Surrey, Gt. East, boys	49
Royal Nelson School, Bury, Lancashire, Surrey, girls	25
Faringdon School, Farnham, W. Sussex, girls	18
Hay Child School, Birmingham, girls	18
Reading Blue Coat School, Reading, boys	18
Kent Edward VII School, Lytham, Lancs, boys	67
Newton High, Porews, comp, mixed	1
Abertawe Grammar, Swansea, Gt. East, boys	46
Wesborne School, Blackdown, comp, mixed	46
St Mary's School, Wantage, Oxon, girls	29
Chilbourn Royal Grammar, Luton, Gt. East, mixed	189
Kendal School, Lancashire, Gt. East, mixed	131
Dartford Girls Grammar, Kent, Gt. East, sat, girls	111
Bishop Luffe, Gloucestershire, comp, mixed	88
Durham School, Durham, mixed	54
King's School, Bournemouth, boys	136
Colston's Collegiate School, Bristol, boys	136
Ashton's School, Pontefract, mixed	43
Jessiah Foss, London, Gt. East, mixed	43
Arndley College, Haywards Heath, W. Sussex, mixed	82
Portlennore, Londonderry, comp, mixed	82
St. Andrews College, Abingdon, Oxford, sat, girls	84
Chevalde Holmes High, Stockport, comp, mixed	50
Austen Friars School, Cardiff, mixed	36
Hetherington Hall School, Hetherington, mixed	24
Dame Allen's Schools, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, boys	74
Chatham Grammar, Kent, Gt. East, girls	114
Port Pitt Grammar, Chatham, Kent, sat, girls	74
St Mary's College, Great Gifford, W. Sussex, mixed	55
Harpwood House, Dorking, Surrey, mixed	105
William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester, mixed	82
Wesley of Marl School, Marl, Gt. East, girls	82
Royal Grammar, North Yorks, sat, mixed	83

Sutton Grammar, Surrey, G.M., sat, boys	82
Sutton of St Mary & St Anne, Reading, girls	18
Chewell, Oxford, comp, mixed	129
Harme Grammar School, Oldham, boys	77
Church of the Angels, Penfold, Hants, mixed	80
King's School, Ely, Cambs, mixed	81
Mount St Mary's College, Via Sheffield, Herts, mixed	49
Manor Convent Senior School, Ascot, girls	44
Beeton School, Bromley, St Len, girls	19
Gateway School, Leeds, girls	15
De Fries High, Burton on Trent, comp, mixed	89
Rugby High for Girls, Walsley, G.M., sat, girls	82
St Mary's College, Taunton, mixed	78
St George's & St Mary's, Wokingham, Surrey, boys	76
Mount Carmel School, Aylesbury, Essex, Cheshire, girls	43
Landow College, Delford, St Mary, mixed	43
Scarborough College, Scarborough, mixed	33
St Dominic's School, Stafford, girls	22
Greavesend Grammar, Kent, sat, mixed	122
Old Swinford Hospital, Staffordshire, G.M., comp, mixed	82
Bristol Cathedral School, Bristol, boys	67
Harpington Ladies' College, Harrogate, girls	80
Royal Russell School, Devon, boys	80
St Benet's School, Halesham, E Sussex, mixed	47
Boume Grammar, Ulm, sat, mixed	35
Kent College, Pembury, Kent, comp, mixed	23
Southend High, Essex, sat, girls	105
St Bernard's Convent School, Slough, sat, girls	82
Wyckle College, St Albans, Glos, mixed	48
This Rochester Grammar, Kent, G.M., sat, girls	48
Darstone College, Ulverston, Stills, mixed	41
Newcastle Church High School, Newcastle-U-Tyne, girls	26
Charterhouse Grammar School, Ipswich, mixed	17
Campion, Hemel Hempstead, comp, mixed	73
Giggleswick College, Settle, N Yorks, mixed	60
Boston School for Girls, Boston, Suffolk, girls	57
Sutton Valence School, Maidstone, mixed	46
Kingsley School, Laxington, Ss, girls	38
Rossmore, Littlehampton, W Sussex, girls	17
Rehman Mark Grammar, Kent, G.M., sat, mixed	121
Bewley Technical High, Kent, sat, girls	78
Ashtree College, Harrogate, mixed	53
St Edmund's School, Canterbury, mixed	48
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar, Kent, sat, mixed	127
Spalding Grammar, Spalding, sat, mixed	83
St Asaph's College, Bangor, G.M., sat, girls	82
Framingham College, Nr Woodbridge, Suffolk, mixed	99
Sydenham High School, London, girls	45
Our Lady's Convent School, Abingdon, girls	31
Sunderford High School, Oxford, girls	18

De Ashton, Maribel, Farnham, Libras, comp, mixed	124	16
Deer, Thelma, York, comp, mixed	91	16
Deafalla College, Reading, mixed	48	12
Doull School, Leicester, boys	36	10
Newlands Manor School, E Sussex, mixed	38	10
Carlisle, Newport, Gwent, comp, mixed	105	25
Howard of Ellingham School, Surrey, comp, mixed	62	10
Guildford County, Surrey, Gilt, comp, mixed	62	10
King Edward's School, in Gillingham, Surrey, mixed	60	10
King's College, Workson, Males, mixed	80	15
Warrminster School, Warrminster, Wills, mixed	34	15
Chesham High, Bucks, comp, mixed	34	15
West Kirby Grammar, Wirral, sat, girls	127	18
Maie House School, Epsom, girls	37	15
Rye St Antony School, Sussex, comp, mixed	37	15
Canter All High, Wrexham, Chyrd, comp, mixed	61	16
Queen Mary School, Lytham, Lancs, girls	51	15
Kingswin & Stafford High, Lincol, sat, girls	54	15
St Mary's Convent School, York, girls	17	15
Prince Henry's High, Gilt, comp, mixed	94	15
King William's College, Isle of Man, mixed	40	15
St Joseph's Convent School, Reading, girls	36	15
Farnborough College, in Farnborough, comp, mixed	22	15
Ursuline Convent School, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, girls	36	15
Brighton School, Winch, girls	18	15
St Joseph's College, Stone on Trent, girls	16	15
La Retraite School, Salford, girls	16	15
Hebburn High, Burnley, comp, mixed	71	15
Pearmouth College, Reading, boys	45	15
Holy Trinity School, Kidderminster, girls	15	15
St Joseph's College, Ipswich, boys	73	15
Parish School, Gillingham, Dorset, sat, girls	104	15
North Hallam Grammar, W Yorks, Gilt, mixed	67	15
Scheldrick School, Liverpool, comp, mixed	67	15
Mount School, London, girls	34	15
Friends School, Stratton Wadham, mixed	23	15
Maie House School, London, girls	18	15
Burton Grammar, St Albans, Kent, sat, boys	31	15
Elmham College, Elmham, Sat, mixed	60	15
St James's and The Abbey, West Malvern, Hereford, girls	31	15

■ As Mr Clinton grapples with the Cuban problem, critics point to the holes in a policy which refuses to deal with Dr Castro but turns a blind eye to abuses in China and offers concessions to North Korea, writes Ian Brodie

All of this has left the perception that Mr Clinton is flying by the seat of his pants on Cuba, as he has on other foreign policy issues. Dr Castro, playing with a weak hand, is managing to call the shots and has forced Washington into a hastily reactive policy that makes the Americans



extended "most favoured nation" trading status to China, despite its appalling human rights record, yet continues to impose a trade embargo on Cuba. Mr Clinton is bargaining with the Stalinist regime of North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons in exchange for trade, diplomatic links and the bribe of new

power stations. Even Washington's relations with the Communist government of Vietnam are moving towards trade and diplomacy as the animosities of war fade. Only Cuba, just 90 miles distant, remains a pariah state with apparently no hope of forgiveness for past misdeeds as a Soviet client. Hardliners are delighted that Dr

America's refusal even to offer terms for negotiations is being exploited by Dr. Castro, while Mr. Clinton's Cuba policy remains as much adrift as the boat people. As a *Washington Times* editorialist put it: "We're now engaged in moving the people of Cuba from one end of the island to the other. That's some policy."

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

Hardliners in the State Department were reported to be feuding with advocates of a gentler approach on the National Security Council staff in the White House. Mr Clinton, caught in the middle and unsure which way to go, summoned an urgent meeting

A senior Administration official admitted that there were "some differences of opinion". But there was no discord over Washington's refusal to talk to Cuba about any issue except migration, a stance that is drawing increasing criticism.

Continued from page 9

Aston: GL14 (24), LN41 (21), LR41 (23), LR42 (22), LL11 (23), ML14 (24)
 Barnsley: W31 (10)
 Canterbury: LW31, LG31, LV38
 Lewisham: LW33, LY31, WL13, WL33, VL83, LY30
 Coventry: ML93
 Herefordshire: L322
 Humberside: L322 (10)
 Leeds: Preston Hall: M9Q3
 Luton: L340
 Manchester: L402 (20)
 Manchester Metro: L510, HL63, L793
 Middlesex: Y400
 Napier: LN31
 North London: L310
 Paisley: L310
 South Bank: BL93, L322, LQ33
 Southampton: Inst: L322
 Strathfield: Y440 (18)
 Sunderland: L322
 Thames Valley: L322
 West of England: L322, LG35

Gwent: B999

Cheltenham & Gloucester: W813
 City: L306 (18), FL34 (20)
 Kent: L300 (16)
 Leeds: L377 (22), LL34 (20)
 London, Guildhall: Y400
 Manchester: W872 (24), L302 (20)
 Middlesex: Y400
 Northumbria: L300
 Oxford: L315 (20), LR33 (18), LR3
 (18), LR31 (18)
 Salford: LM3 (18), L300 (18), L3Y
 (18)
 Sunderland: W341 (12)
 Surrey: LLCH
 St Mary: CL13 (4), WL13 (4), FL83 (4)
 LQ33 (4), L313 (4), VL93 (4)
 Tyneside: L300, LL73
 West of England: L300

STUDIES
London, SOAS: TS00 (20), TS02 (20)

SPANISH STUDIES
Bradford: RR48, RR14
Buckingham: Y220
Buckinghamshire Coll: N1R4 (14)
Greenwich: NR54
Humberstone: N1R4, NR14
Kingston: MR94 (10)
London, Guildhall: Y400
London, OMF: H1R4 (12), F2R4 (1)

(20). RT42 (20). VR14 (22). RR45 (22).
RR41 (22). RR42 (22). RR43 (22). RR
(22). RR4C (22). RR4G (22). RR4H (2

Portsmouth: RR46, RR45, R41
RR34
Southampton: R400 (14)

Westminster: N8R4, RT46, T3
QR34, RE14, RR24, RE34, RR
RQ41
Wolverhampton: Y600

Wales, Lampeter: R720

London. SOAS: TS 17 (20

London, SGAS: T555 (20

Darlington: W3W4, W436
Huddersfield: W420, W4P3
Leeds, Breton Hall: W420
London, RH: W420 (24)
Rose Bruford: W430, W4W3, W4
W432, W4W2, W421, W4WF, W4
W350
Scarborough: W4F9, W4W1, W4
W430, W4G9, W4L3, W4Q3, W4
W4V8, F9W4
(Lister: W420 (18))

Greenwich: V800
Kent: VV18 (18)
Manchester: V816 (18)
St Mary's: V800 (12), VC81 (4), VF8
(4), VQ88 (4), VW84 (4), QV58 (4), GV1
(4), VL83 (4)
Wales, Cardiff: V800 (18)

DEVELOPMENT
Coventry: L899

TRAVEL
Bangor: N740
Baltimore: B700

Central Lancs: P700
Hertfordshire: N741
Humberside: N740 (12), N741 (12)
PTM9 (12)
Luton: Y400
Manchester Metro: N723
North London: N740
Northumbria: N741
Plymouth: P700, N740
Scarborough: XP87
Stratclyde: N720 (18)
Ulster: N740 (14)
Westminster: NE74

Dundee: K420 (14)
 Heriot-Watt: K440
 Manchester: K400 (16)
 Napier: K450
 Oxford, Brookes: GK44, CK14, FK8
 FK84, K147, GK54, GK34, FK9
 HK24, K194, K482, KW41, GK
 KN4N, GK14, KW43, FK84, FK3
 KN41, KP45, EN45
 South Bank: K440
 Southampton: L184 (14)
 Strathclyde: K450 (18)
 West of England: K401
 Westminster: K460

London, SOAS: T680 (22)

Bangor: Y401
Bolton: GK14, GK54, KN41, LK5
LK64, LK56, KV47, KV41, EQ43
Glamorgan: N800
Greenwich: K420
Humberstone: L399 (12)
Kingston: N800 (4)
North London: K460
Sheffield Hallam: N800, K460
Southampton: L184 (14)
West of England: K464

London, SOAS: T595 (20), T537 (20)

STUDIES

ARTS/STUDIES
Boltorn: FW99, GW19, GW39, NW
NW19, NW49, QW39, VW19, VW
CW19, LW39, TW29
Lancaster: W100 (16), W150 (14).

Cardiff Inst: E7Q5
Wales, Cardiff: Q520 (16)
Wales, Lampeter: Q520, Q512

Bolton: MN91, MN94
Bradford: LM49, MJ99
Coventry: M193
Central Lancs: W299 (10)
Glamorgan: M903 (10)
Luton: M900, L455
Middlesex: Y400
Shenfield Hallam: M903
Worcester CHS: Y100 (6)
Wolverhampton: Y600
West of England: M903

Compiled by Matthew
Bryant, James Goss, Vicki
Rumball and Charles Young

* except Milton Keynes & Hammersmith

You've
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Gaullists turn Paris liberation party into election battlefield

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE flash and thunder of fireworks over the Seine last night was supposed to symbolise the arrival in Paris of Charles de Gaulle 50 years ago, but it also served as a fitting overture to the battle between rival heirs to his throne.

Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist party leader and the Mayor of Paris, and Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, have used the liberation festivities to fire opening shots in the duel that could decide the successor to President Mitterrand next spring. For M. Balladur, the ceremony

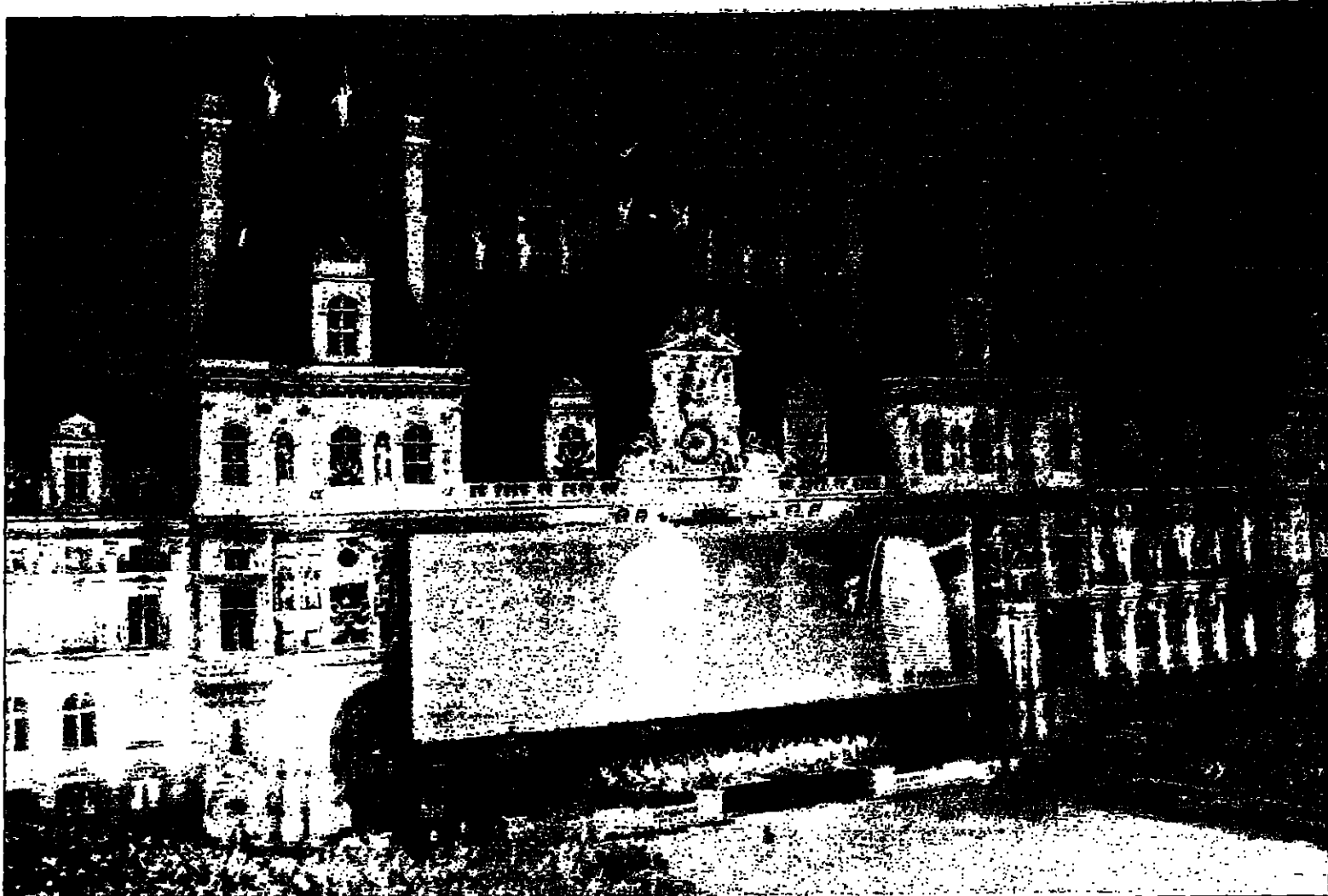
was a chance to appeal for unity, a reminder that he is more qualified than the partisan M. Chirac as father of the nation, the role tailored by De Gaulle in 1958 for French Presidents.

M. Chirac, who is alarmed over his failure to catch up with his former lieutenant, came close to turning the celebrations into a personal platform. France, he said, faced unprecedented social crisis with crippling unemployment and the emergence of a new class of alienated poor. Ignoring the 16 months of M. Balladur's administration

and the emergence from recession, he said France craved bold new leadership that would revive de Gaulle's commitment to social welfare. With the political debate dominated by the social crisis, M. Chirac, 61, has put aside the free-market fervour he espoused as Prime Minister in the 1990s and is projecting himself as a sort of caring Bonaparte, a version of the quip that "Gaullism equals Joan of Arc plus social security".

The surest sign that the race is on came from Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister and party secretary, who acknowledged for the first time that M. Chirac, though leader, was not automatically entitled to become President. This ended the fiction that M. Balladur was not interested in occupying the Elysée palace. Party leaders face an autumn of trying to prevent civil war while deciding which candidate to support.

Even the most loyal supporters of M. Chirac are aware that the pragmatic M. Balladur, 63, is the firm choice of the centre-right parties with whom they share power. A key will be the support of Charles Pasqua,



An image of Charles de Gaulle being projected onto the Paris town hall yesterday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city's liberation



Balladur, left, and Chirac, who are fighting for early support in France's presidential elections next year



the popular Interior Minister, who has increased his power by taking the credit for the arrest of Carlos the Jackal and the crackdown against radical Islamic activists.

The Gaullists' manoeuvring is being closely watched

by Jacques Delors, the outgoing President of the European Commission, who has signalled that he might yield to calls to stand for office. He is the only left-wing figure believed to stand a chance against the Gaullists. Michel

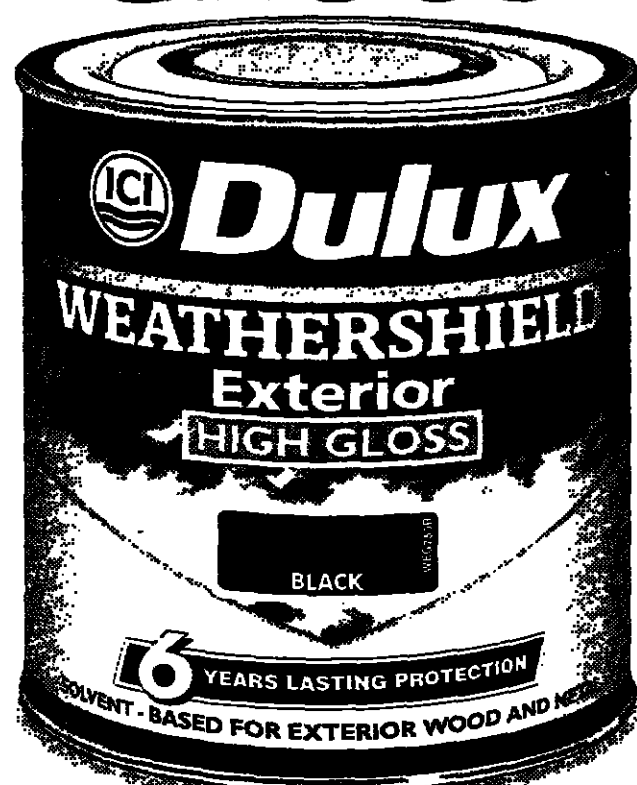
Rocard is no longer in the running after his removal as party secretary, and Henri Emmanuelli, his successor, is an old-style leftist who stands for everything that led to the Socialist's rout in the general elections last year and the

European poll in June. Younger candidates, notably Martine Aubry, M. Delors' daughter, are waiting for the 2002 campaign which will no longer include politicians shaped by the Gaullist state. According to opinion polls,

M. Delors, from the pragmatic social-democratic wing, would defeat M. Chirac but run a distant second to M. Balladur, who has nearly 60 per cent support.

Leading article, page 15

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Bosnian Serbs set to reject peace map

FROM TIM JUDAH IN TREBINJE, EASTERN HERZEGOVINA

EVEN the furthest corner of the Bosnian Serb self-proclaimed republic will vote overwhelmingly to reject the current peace plan in this weekend's referendum. Trebinje, capital of eastern Herzegovina, badly needs peace but most people here believe that the war will go on for years and that their leaders are right to defy the world.

"The war will be finished when Serbs can live in their own country and the international community gives them this right," declares Bozidar Vucurevic, leader of Trebinje's 38,000 people.

Bosnian Serb voters are being asked whether they accept the maps accompanying the latest plan. There is no doubt they will be rejected by more than 90 per cent. The maps will sever links between different parts of Serb-held territory and Trebinje itself would be cut off.

Western leaders have said that rejection of the plan may trigger the lifting of the arms embargo on the Bosnian government and the withdrawal of United Nations forces. Few Bosnian Serbs believe this, or more importantly, even care. In rump Yugoslavia, which is applying border sanctions, the Bosnian Serbs will not be allowed to cast their votes in the referendum.

In terms of firepower, food and morale the Bosnian Serbs can survive a rejection of the peace plan, maybe for years. But, if their goal is achieved, their state will be poor, its young people will leave and its towns, cut off from raw materials and markets, will decline into poverty. As they go to vote few Bosnian Serbs, apart from the educated young, realise the full extent of this disaster.

French police trap Eta's killer Tigress

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRENE Idola López Riaño, hunted by Spanish police as one of the Eta separatist group's most dangerous operatives, has been arrested in France. Police in Aix-en-Provence said yesterday she was carrying a pistol and false identity papers, as do nearly all Eta members, in the hope they will be charged and sentenced in France and thus delay extradition to Spain.

The detention of The Tigress, *femme fatale* of Basque terrorism, wanted for two dozen killings in Spain, was hailed last night by the Spanish Interior Ministry. It also welcomed the extradition from Uruguay to Madrid of three other Eta members.

Señora López, 30, who was detained near Marseilles, was described as "the mythical figure of Basque terrorism" in Madrid. "She was a member of Eta's bloodiest commandos," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "She was a member of units in the Basque region, Madrid and the Mediterranean coast." Wanted posters of the tall, slim, green-eyed woman with a shock of curly black hair have adorned walls in Spain for years.

Chiefs of the Basque separatist group considered her a liability and criticised her for

being trigger-happy, refusing to let only male comrades open fire. Eta also believed The Tigress was a security risk because of her passion for staking young men in city discos at night. She is believed to have been thrown out of the Eta cell for insubordination, but maintained her association with the group.

Also known as Margarita, or Daisy, she first joined the Basque separatist movement in San Sebastian when she was 18. She was a member of the Madrid commando that between April and September 1986 assassinated 19 Civil



López: could face 23 life sentences in Spain

Guards. She is believed to have been behind one of Eta's bloodiest attacks on July 14, 1986, when 12 Civil Guards were killed in two car-bomb blasts in Madrid.

In France, Señora López faces at least six years in jail, on charges of illicit possession of a weapon and for belonging to an outlawed organisation, before being extradited to Spain to face 23 life sentences.

The three Eta members extradited from Uruguay were yesterday detained in a Madrid prison hospital. The trio, who had been on hunger strike for two weeks in protest at their impending extradition from Uruguay, began to eat again last night.

Luis María Lizarralde, Mikel Ibañeta and Jesús Goñi, who were among 13 alleged Basque separatists arrested in a series of swoops in Uruguay in 1992, were expected to appear before Spanish judges over the next few days to answer charges ranging from murder to possession of explosives.

Jon Idigoras, a Spanish deputy and member of Eta's political wing, Herri Batasuna, was also yesterday expelled from Uruguay for his role in organising violent street battles.

Far right's SS leader to quit

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BONN

FRANZ Schönhuber, the head of Germany's extreme right-wing Republican Party, is to step down in November but is not yet planning to withdraw from politics, his office said yesterday.

He will remain in his post until after the October 16 general elections and officially resign at his party's annual conference at the end of November or early December, a spokeswoman said.

The announcement came three days after Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, ordered tighter surveillance on the party's activities and accused it of slipping towards extremism.

Republican Party members had this week threatened to revolt after Herr Schönhuber,

71, a former Waffen SS member, appeared to have reached a pact with the extremist German People's Union.

Herr Kanther instructed the intelligence service to "observe any eventual political alliance between the two parties, in order to decide whether the Republicans should be classed as extremist", his ministry said in a statement.

Italy sells off dream factory on the Tiber

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian government is planning to privatise the Cinecittà film studios, where *La Dolce Vita* was made, to reduce the financial burden on the state of the "Hollywood-on-the-Tiber" complex, officials said yesterday.

Franco Lucchesi, the managing director of the Ente Gestione Cinema, the state agency that controls the Rome studios, said a majority stake of 51 per cent would be offered to private companies. Vittorio Cecchi Gori, a producer, and Fininvest, the company owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the Prime Minister, have shown an interest in acquiring the complex. Cinecittà is the largest film complex in Europe and last year it incurred a loss of 30 billion lire (£13 million).

Signor Lucchesi said: "The orientation of the government is to cede to private investors a majority shareholding in the operating company."

Cinecittà, inaugurated in 1937 on the Via Tuscolana, was built in 475 days to meet Mussolini's desire to produce films glorifying the Fascist regime. In the 1950s it became known as Hollywood-on-the-Tiber after the American production of such epics as *Quo Vadis?*, *Ben Hur* and *Cleopatra*. Federico Fellini captured the

decadence of American stars working in Rome when he shot his 1960 classic *La Dolce Vita*, starring Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg, at Cinecittà, reconstructing the capital's fun-loving Via Veneto in the complex.

Fellini, more than any other director, made Cinecittà world-famous, producing nearly all his films there from *8½* to *Casanova* and *Ginger and Fred*.

But the studios began to decline well before Fellini's death last year. The main

American producers found that the costs were becoming too high in the 1960s, and the great impresarios, such as Dino De Laurentis and Alberto Grimaldi, began to work exclusively in the United States, while Carlo Ponti retired to Switzerland.

With Italian cinema in a state of crisis, a main part of Cinecittà's revenue has come from advertising and television projects. An exception is *Occhio Pinocchio*, which Francesco Nuti, the popular Italian actor and director, has been filming there for more than a year. It is expected to be one of the most expensive films in the history of Italian cinema.

Trade unions, representing the 250 permanent staff working at the 16 theatres in the complex, are, however, wary of privatisation; they fear that their jobs will go.

Signor Cecchi Gori confirmed that he had been approached about acquiring a share in the studios. "Cinecittà has asked me to join the management. It is not surprising since I bring a great number of films there every year." But he said private investors will take a long, hard look before buying eventual shares.

"I must think about it. The risk of losing many billions of lire a year is very great," he told *Il Messaggero*.



Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg starring in *La Dolce Vita*

Germans find lost Muslim graveyard

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

AMONG the rubble, the broken vodka bottles and the prowling stray cats of the Russian army's biggest garrison in the West, German officials have stumbled on a long-forgotten cemetery for Muslim soldiers.

The discovery is sure to provoke intense interest among Muslims. At a stroke, some 1,000 martyrs have been added to Islam's catalogue of sacred dead.

The graves are of prisoners taken by the Germans during the First World War. Two sprawling POW camps occupied the territory of Wunsdorf, just south of Berlin, which later became the headquarters and training ground of the Western Group of the Soviet army. Now, with President Yeltsin scheduled to see off the last Russian soldier next week, Wunsdorf is a ghost town.

In its heyday, this forward base, from which an offensive war against Nato would have been controlled, housed cinemas, a bakery, a laundry, tailors, barbers and a Russian post office. Near the artillery ranges, 50,000 pigs were kept to reduce dependency on German meat. Today, apart from stray animals, only the spirits of the dead haunt the once proud military township.

The rediscovered graveyard forms part of a curious historical episode. The soldiers included Tatars, North and West Africans and Indian Muslims who were fighting in the French and British armies. The Germans had hoped to appeal to their religious affiliations to persuade them to fight for the Ottoman Empire, allied with Germany.

In an effort to persuade them of Germany's good intentions, the prisoners were given a relatively easy life. Certainly Muslim religious services and rituals were encouraged.

Muslim propagandists delivered lectures about the "holy duty" of Muslims to oppose British and French colonialism. In 1915 the first mosque ever to stand on German soil was built in the camp. Yet few of the prisoners were won over and most were probably aware that they were being manipulated.

The German ambition of setting up an Islamic army quietly faded and conditions in the camp were allowed to deteriorate. About 1,000 of the 23,000 prisoners died, and it is their bodies that are crowded into the overgrown graveyard.

It is obvious that the Russians were barely aware of this Islamic shrine. A few hundred yards away there are shards of burnt-out tanks that had been used as artillery targets. Now the Germans hope, perhaps with Islamic help, to save what is left of the relics and put the ghosts to rest.

Students riot on campuses in South Africa

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN JOHANNESBURG

STUDENT unrest has spread like a wild fire in South Africa as black undergraduates battle the mainly white, often liberal, administrations of higher education institutions.

Police used teargas and dogs to clear rioting black students from the University of South Africa campus in Pretoria. Six staff members were injured, and the authorities have banned students from the university's premises there and in Johannesburg.

At Vanderbijl Park, south of here, majority white students and their black colleagues fought with baseball bats and knobkerries at the Vaal Triangle Technikon, a college of advanced technology. The clash was provoked by rightwingers declaring a hall of residence to be a "Boerestaat" (white homeland), and expelling blacks. In Bloemfontein, black students occupied the administration block of the University of the Orange Free State, protesting at the "unsatisfactory" results of elections to the student representative council.

Perhaps saddest of all, however, is the havoc wrought at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where rampaging black students threw stones, broke windows, turned on fire hoses and threw rubbish everywhere. Blows were exchanged with a group of white students who confronted them.

"Wits", as the university is generally known, was in the forefront of white liberalism in the apartheid era, admitting black students on merit from the day of its foundation in 1922. After 1948, when the Nationalists came to power, the student body was frequently in conflict with the police as a result of a series of demonstrations against the injustices of apartheid. Senior faculty members also supported the protests. Black student demands differ from college to college but they essentially concern the inability of many of the students to pay fees or to meet rigorous "culturally based" examination requirements. They are demanding black student control of college administrations and, at Wits, the sacking of Professor Robert Charlton, the vice-chancellor.

Troops halt bid by Khmer Rouge to flee with hostages

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PHNOM PENH

THE Khmer Rouge guerrillas who hold three Western hostages, surrounded by 4,000 Cambodian troops, attempted to break out of their mountain redoubt with their sickly, ill-fed captives but were beaten back yesterday.

The troops, hampered by minefields, monsoon swamps and paddy fields, were tantalisingly only half a mile from the hostages yesterday.

Events appear to be moving to a climax. The guerrillas repeated that their demands must be met by Tuesday, a statement meant to imply that the hostages could be killed. The Cambodian army attacked the Khmer Rouge position with artillery, defying appeals by British, French and Australian diplomats to exercise restraint. An attempt to overrun the rebel base could endanger the captives' lives.

The guerrillas abducted the hostages after ambushing a train in southern Cambodia on July 26. The three, who were travelling together, are Mark Slater, 28, from Britain, who was on a world tour after giving up a factory job; David Wilson, 29, from Australia; and Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, a Frenchman. A string of bizarre, ever-changing demands has come from Nou Pakt, the Khmer Rouge com-

mander who is holding them in appalling conditions.

The folly of travelling into the Cambodian interior seems to have eluded many foreigners, who think the feeble democratic government that took office last year is in control. The countryside is deadly; if ordinary bandits do not rob or kidnap foreigners, there is a good chance that the Khmer Rouge will.

"General" Paet is capricious. First, he wanted \$50,000 (£32,000) for each of the hostages. Then he added a demand for five Swiss watches of a superior brand. He returned with demands for special food for his malnourished troops after that he wanted beer and soft drinks. The government met some of his demands, but no money has exchanged hands. The governments of Britain, Australia and France have advised Phnom Penh not to pay a ransom.

About 300 Khmer Rouge guerrillas are believed to be holed up on Phnom Var (Vine Mountain) in the southern province of Kampot with the hostages. Given the rough terrain and the state of the ill-trained Cambodian army, there is scant chance that troops will overrun the base.

General Paet's latest demand is that Western coun-

tries refrain from giving military assistance to the Cambodian government. Nobody gives lethal aid, because the army is so inept and corrupt, but if a promised military overhaul takes place such aid could follow. The three hostages have become pawns in the Khmer Rouge's attempts to keep the government weak. Government officials, acting as intermediaries, are profiting from the crisis by selling video film of the captives to television stations.

France supplies technical assistance to the Cambodian military; Australia helps in removing landmines and teaching English to senior officers. There are lots of officers in the world's most top-heavy army — generals number 2,000 and there are 10,000 colonels. The army payroll includes at least 35,000 phantom soldiers. The United States has promised military aid once the system is overhauled.

The Khmer Rouge said in a broadcast yesterday that Australia, France and America were fuelling war in Cambodia. It threatened to attack nationals from those countries, which was tantamount to threatening all Westerners, since little distinction is drawn between them.



A crocodile jumping to snatch a piece of meat during the so-called "jumping crocodile cruises", which operate 20 miles east of Darwin in the Northern Territory. The reptiles were once hunted close to extinction.

Relatives cast doubt on suicide air crash

FROM REUTER
IN RABAT

RELATIVES and colleagues of a Moroccan pilot yesterday cast doubt on an official inquiry's conclusion that he rammed his airliner into a mountain as an act of suicide, saying he was a happy man who planned to marry soon.

"My son is sane. He cannot commit suicide, much less kill anyone, because he loves everyone. He has no problems, family or otherwise," Amina ben Tayeb, the mother of pilot Yunes Khayati, told the Rabat daily, *L'Opinion*.

Friends said Khayati, 32, was planning to get married at the end of the year and was due to be promoted. He had even bought furniture for a new home. But the mystery over Sunday's crash, in which 44 passengers and crew were killed, deepened when an official inquiry said no technical faults could be found.

"The only reason for the accident is the deliberate desire of the captain, who switched off the automatic pilot and buried the aircraft at the ground," Mohammed Moufid, director of Moroccan civil aviation, who headed the inquiry, said.

Charges of negligence were filed against a Canadian pilot and the South Korean co-pilot of a Korean Air Lines jet that crashed at the resort island of Cheju. (AP)

Russians expelled from mafia's island playground in the sun

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TWELVE Russians accused of extorting protection money from compatriot businessmen were being deported from Cyprus yesterday amid growing fears that the Russian mafia has established itself on the divided island.

Cyprus has become Moscow's main offshore base and playground in the sun. The island houses some 2,000 Russian companies and about 100,000 Russian tourists will have been here by year's end.

The 12 Russians being sent home were arrested last week after a dawn raid on two flats near Larnaca netted a loaded pistol with 32 rounds and large sums in cash. "The raids came after Russian businessmen complained that they had been approached for protection money."

Cyprus authorities said the case was unprecedented and promised a "tough" response to organised crime. "But if the evidence is not sufficient the best thing is to deport them," Yiannakis Cassoulides, the government spokesman, said.

A legal source said that one of the accused had boasted that none of the Russian businessmen they had tried to blackmail would dare testify because "they know they will be shot dead as soon as they step off the plane in Moscow".

There were astonishing scenes last Saturday when the accused first ap-



peared in Larnaca district court. They were swaggering and abusive and several braved with police and swore at journalists. One even cracked a policeman over the head with a walking stick in front of television cameras.

Most of the Russian companies in Cyprus are small "brassplate" affairs established so that directors can open a bank account to keep their hard currency safe from high inflation and low interest rates at home. Others are large trading and property companies. One director recently ordered four Ferraris for his senior staff another has a private jet.

Local lawyers and accountants servicing the Russian companies covet the

lucrative business which came as Cyprus was facing stiff competition as a regional offshore financial centre from Bahrain and Dubai. But there are signs that the windfall is turning sour. Moscow has complained that too much of its hard currency is pouring into Cyprus and recently gave a warning that the mafia would follow Russian money. "I have no doubt at all that the Russian mafia has a strong presence here," said a leading British-trained Cypriot criminal lawyer.

There are suspicions that some Russian companies are laundering mafia profits from gambling, prostitution, drug trafficking and arms trading. The main attraction is Cyprus's double-taxation agreement with the former Eastern bloc, particularly with Russia.

There are also close historical, sentimental and religious ties between the Russians and the Greek Cypriots, a significant minority of whom speak Russian. Cyprus's thriving Communist Party had close ties with Moscow and arranged scholarships for poorer students to study in the Eastern bloc.

"Here we feel comfortable. We have the same mentality, the same heart," said Vladimir Tikhonov, the Aeroflot airline's international director, who led a Russian delegation to Cyprus earlier this year.

Hero's grave for British sailor

FROM JANE HOWARD IN SINGAPORE

A BRITISH sailor in the Second World War, who sacrificed his life on an Indonesian atoll to give his fellows a chance to escape execution by the Japanese, is being buried with full military honours in Singapore today.

The fate of Sub-Lieutenant Gregor Riggs, of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, had been a mystery for almost 50 years until his remains were exhumed on Merapas in the Rimau archipelago in June.

Riggs and Colin Cameron, 22, an Australian sergeant, made a heroic last stand in November 1944 after an ill-fated Allied commando raid.

Half a century later, the pair will be laid to rest in Kranji war cemetery, joining 15 other men who took part in Operation Rimau, which aimed to destroy 60 Japanese ships.

In September 1944, 23 British and Australian members of the Services Reconnaissance Department, "Z" Special Unit, travelled in the British submarine *Porpoise* to the outskirts of Singapore harbour. But the party, betrayed by collaborators, was intercepted by the Japanese after sinking three ships and several were killed. The remaining 18 retreated to Merapas island, 40 miles south of Singapore, to await rescue by submarine. When the submarine arrived 21 days late, the survivors were on the other side of the island.

Major Tom Hall, an Australian army veteran and writer who spent 30 years trying to track down the remains of all 23 commandos, said that as the Japanese combed the island Riggs and Cameron provided a diversion so that their

six comrades might escape. All 23 perished despite the act of gallantry — ten were captured and beheaded. Major Hall discovered Cameron's remains in 1981; he had been shot in the head.

After years of research, Major Hall found an Indonesian, Abdul Rachman Achap, who witnessed Riggs' last moments and will attend the funeral. Riggs ran the length of the island, with the Japanese in pursuit. Stopping at the end of a small spur, he was shot three times in the chest. The Japa-

nese, impressed by the young man's heroism, allowed him to be buried and his grave marked with a cross.

The funeral will be conducted by officers and sailors of HMS *Cardiff* and officers and soldiers of the Australian Regular Army Rifle Company, Bunterworth. Riggs' two sisters, Mrs Muriel Buie and Miss Barbara Riggs, and his brother-in-law, Arthur Buie, will be present.



Gregor Riggs: bravery impressed Japanese

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28 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

40 million Irish can be wrong

America is full of Ulstermen, says Geoffrey Wheatcroft

There is some doubt about how close the American delegation visiting Northern Ireland is to the Clinton Administration, and about how close it is to Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin, but there is no doubt about Bruce Morrison and his colleagues are. They are "Irish-American" members, if not representatives, of the largest of all communities of "hyphenated Americans".

The size of this group is usually given as 40 million: a BBC reporter the other day referred to the "44-million-strong" band of Irish-Americans. That is a fifth of the US population. No wonder American politicians tremble. However, organised Jewish-Americans may be, they are statistically trivial by comparison.

One of the great migrations which transformed the character of America began in the late 1840s, after the horror of the Great Famine. A million died, a million emigrated, mostly to the US. They were followed by millions more in the course of the next century, as emigration became, in Roy Foster's words, the central fact of Irish social history. These were "Irish Irish": Celtic by stock, Roman Catholic by religion, and most of them Gaelic-speaking when they left Ireland.

This migration had a huge impact on American society, on American politics and American cities. From New York to Chicago to San Francisco, one city was transformed. Until the 1840s, Boston was the heart and soul of the old Yankee culture of New England, far more important in literary terms than New York. The city, and its civilisation and society, were Anglo-Saxon and Protestant. Then came the Irish. There was a long battle between the two, Yankee and Irish, but it was decided by weight of numbers. In 1830 there was hardly a Roman Catholic to be found in Boston; by 1930 the city was three-quarters Catholic. The Irish took over municipal politics to the exclusion of both the earlier population and of other immigrants. The political culture of Irish-America became a by-word.

In New York it was epitomised by the name of Tammany Hall, in Boston by the gloriously disgraceful career of James Michael Curley, four times Mayor of Boston and twice imprisoned for corruption. Curley was the son of a poor immigrant from Galway. He took control of Boston and ruled it by jobbery, patronage and "honest graft". After winning his last election in 1945, by then in his seventies (on the informal slogan "Vote often and early for Curley"), the mayor was imprisoned once more. President Truman was petitioned for clemency by every member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation, with one exception, the young congressman John F. Kennedy.

Decades earlier, at the beginning of his career, Curley had found his ascent blocked by Mayor John F. Fitzgerald. Curley got rid of him, in an episode out of *Citizen Kane*, by threatening to expose the mayor's liaison with a cigarette girl called Toodles. "Hon-

ey Fitz" resigned, but his family, including his grandson, Jack Kennedy, remembered, and were true to the principle of Boston politics, "Don't get mad, get even".

By his election as president in 1960, Kennedy marked the coming of age of Irish-America and its final acceptance into the mainstream. With his Anglophilia, his happy memories of London and his Cavenish connections, Kennedy was warmly in favour of the "special relationship"; but many Irish-Americans still nurtured a bitter ancestral resentment of "England's cruel red", which was sometimes translated into political terms. The Irish-American vote had already been a factor in the British Government had to take account of in the years before the Irish Free State was created. It became so again after the Ulster Troubles broke out 25 years ago. Irish-American politicians like Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and the late "Tip" O'Neill put pressure on the White House to put pressure on the British, though they usually took care to dissociate themselves from Noraid and other open supporters of the IRA. Behind those politicians in turn, and adding to their weight, stood the scores of millions of Irish-Americans.

But hold on. You don't need to be a professional statistician or demographic historian to see that the Irish immigration after the famine could not possibly have produced 40 millions, especially if that figure is compared with the numbers of other hyphenated Americans. On closer examination, it turns out that only 8 million of these Irish-Americans are Roman Catholics, which gives a much more plausible figure. Looking closer still, the curious truth emerges.

Most of those Irish-Americans are in fact doubly hyphenated: they are what old-fashioned Americans still sometimes call "Scotch-Irish" — that is to say, they are of Ulster Protestant descent. There had been another migration from Ireland to America, in the 18th century. Large numbers of Scotch-Irish crofters and artisans, whose ancestors had been "planted" in Ulster the previous century, crossed the Atlantic. The toughest of colonial Americans, this group went on to produce at least ten presidents.

And then they were so thoroughly absorbed into the American population that they forgot quite who they were: to the extent that they had an identity, it merged with that of the later Catholic-Irish arrivals. It is not merely an ironic outcome, it is a bizarre one — exemplified bizarrely enough by Mr Morrison himself, who is of Ulster Protestant descent. There must, I suspect, have been Americans of Scotch-Irish origin who, carried away by their "Irishness", have given money to Noraid to help to kill their own distant cousins in Ulster. A quaint and amusing story, perhaps — but should we take the "Irish-Americans" as seriously as they take themselves?

The Irish took over municipal politics, excluding others

Five hundred years on, Jim McCue salutes William Tyndale, the man behind the English Bible

Bringing the Word to the ploughboy

and make me a couple of fritters?"

Many phrases of his coming are still good English currency: "the spirit is willing", "the fat of the land", "light the good fight", "signs of the times", "ye of little faith", "seek and ye shall find", "eat, drink and be merry", "the powers that be" (where the New English Bible deally has "the existing authorities"), "a law unto themselves", "a fool's paradise", "filthy lucre", "a man after his own heart". In his infelicitously enthusiastic new biography, David Daniell constantly shows the vigour and rhetorical adeptness of Tyndale's English, and emphasises his determination to make sense even where the original text is hopelessly vexed.

Although stilted English versions of parts of the Bible had circulated in manuscript for centuries, the Catholic Church of Tyndale's time fiercely opposed translations. Because only priests could read the thousand-year-old Latin Vulgate Bible, the Church was in the omnipotent position of being able to ration, or auction, salvation. As Tyndale wrote, the medieval "Scribes and Pharisees" had "shut up" the Scriptures, "and had taken away the key of knowledge".

But in 1517, Martin Luther accused the Church of robbing the people of their birthright of an unmediated Gospel. From his protests sprang the Protestant Church.

Tyndale's New Testament drew on a Greek edition by Erasmus, and on the work of Luther, but he was learned enough to write simply. His work is characterised by a refreshing determination to reach everyone, even "a boy that driveth the plough". By contrast with some enormous Bibles on the Continent, his were pocket-sized, both so that they could be smuggled and to make them ploughboy-friendly. This was an astonishing breakthrough. The walls around learning had looked impenetrable. As late as 1600, only 30 of the 6,000 volumes in the Oxford University Library were in English.

But sacred texts in the mother tongue threatened to overturn the priesthood, which Tyndale attacked as ignorant and pedantic. Over centuries, the exegesis of the Church fathers had become more important than the Bible itself. "As Aaron made a calf, so the pope maketh bulls," wrote Tyndale — but now all this was stripped away. Libraries of pseudo-learning, including the proverbial arguments about how many

angels could stand on the head of a pin, suddenly became redundant. Tyndale condemned them as so much "juggling with the text, ex-pounding it in such a sense as is impossible". Not only were these "chopological" commentaries mistaken, they weren't even good Latin. And even the Archbishop of Canterbury was forced to admit that monks performing services were often "wholly ignorant of what they read".

Tyndale also attacked most of the Sacraments as spurious, and rejected the threat of Purgatory, in the knowledge that these were nowhere mentioned in the Gospels. Defying the Pope, he urged, with Luther, that faith alone can lead to salvation, and that good works (including payments to the Church) are unnecessary. No longer would sin be "the profitablest merchandise in the world".

The Establishment swung into action. Tyndale and Luther were denounced by "bishops, prelates and holy ghostly people". The "poet laureate" John Skelton, was set to attack the heretics in verse. Buying or owning an English Bible was expressly forbidden and courted severe punishment. The witch-hunt was on. Sir Thomas More wrote long,

rabid and outrageously scabrous attacks on them, which make even Swift at his most scatological seem restrained. (The myth of him as saintly humanist persists only because these works are unreadable.) But More's commitment to Church and State, fawning on the King, left him vulnerable as the Protestant tide came in and Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534 for the sake of his divorce. The persecutor of heretics was now himself executed for treason.

Meanwhile, Tyndale had turned to the Old Testament, setting himself the yet greater task of translating from Hebrew, a language then scarcely studied. In all he had eight languages, but this he must largely have taught himself. Ancient Hebrew is a closed language. Existing only in the Old Testament. There are no documents outside this corpus against which usages can be checked, and many words have never been satisfactorily explained. Yet the flexibility of Tyndale's idiom ensured that the Authorised Version adopted four-fifths of his readings.

Tyndale's Bible had a huge influence on the development of English. In particular, it inaugurated a golden age of translations. It was now clear that English could be a literary language, and writers' ambitions soared. The new confidence and eloquence made Shakespeare possible. English could convey biblical truth; English could do anything.

David Daniell's William Tyndale will be published on September 5 (Yale, £19.95).

Misappliance of science

The young are not fooled: they know that the adult world does not require a knowledge of maths and science

Surely the game is up. August 1994 should be education's D-Day. The young people of Britain are refusing to spend half their day learning maths and science. They are rebelling not because the teaching is bad (though government inspectors claim it is) or because the subjects are hard (experts say they are easier). They are rebelling against maths and science because they do not see the point of them. The great Tory plan to produce a nation of mathematicians and scientists has failed. The customers are folding their tents and stealing away.

This week's A-level results continued last year's fall in maths and physics entries, by 7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. Entry standards for university courses in these subjects are falling. The best indicator — the mean A-level scores of university entrants — puts social science, business studies and the humanities all above the physical sciences and engineering, which are bottom.

If I were a scientist concerned with quality not quantity, I would find this humiliating. I would slash numbers in my department. But quantity is all. Maths and science places are going begging this week even at the best universities. Any fool seems able to get a science place. Students are clamouring instead for business studies, law, management, social science, English, history, languages. Only medicine among the science subjects is the exception that proves my rule: there are good jobs in medicine. Students are not stupid.

This is heresy to educationists. Try telling a senior common room that what this country "needs" is more venture capitalists and social administrators (which is probably true). You will be howled down. Science and maths are politically correct. Who cares that industry demands few mathematicians or scientists these days, and pays them accordingly? More fool industry, say the educators. Whitehall knows no other creed. A university gets twice as much subsidy for a science student as for an arts one. Two years ago grants for

arts places were actually cut by £550, to dissuade students from taking courses they wanted to take but ministers dislike.

The only jobs market for which education seems to care is its own. David Hart of the head teachers talks hysterically of school science being in "free fall". The drugs industry calls for science in schools to be given its "deserved high priority". The education department announces yet another crisis enquiry.

Britain's highly centralised education system is like an aged general, fighting the last war but one. The author of its defeat strategy is easy to identify. C.P. Snow's "Two Cultures" campaign, launched in 1956, reads today like some 17th-century tract. It claimed that the industrial revolution was over, and a "scientific" one was about to begin.

Science graduates were already earning 40 per cent more than arts ones. There was a shortage, caused by the snobbery of the arts lobby. The national interest required more to be spent on science.

"History will be merciless to failure." The Russians did these things better, educating scientists by the million.

The message reached Whitehall two decades later. Sir Keith Joseph, Kenneth Baker and John Patten at the education department spent millions of pounds on the "scientific revolution". Science teachers were paid more. Universities were flooded with grants. Manifestos proclaimed that science was as crucial to the nation's future as were farm price support and the British car industry.

If this was ever true, it is true no longer. The science revolution has given way to the information one. If not the leisure one. Graduates are more in touch with the jobs market than ministers. They can read the ads. The modern economy wants lawyers, bankers, managers, accountants, designers, salesmen, hoteliers, cooks. Last week, as if to rub the point home, a BBC documentary showed Lord Snow's admired Russian scientists struggling to weave baskets, open Western food handouts and thieves plutonium.

The curriculum designed by Mr



The village school in 1900: but whatever happened to the science revolution

Baker was a product not of true manpower planning but of Whitehall's capitulation to the vested interests of university maths and science departments. Advanced maths in particular is the most remarkable confidence-trick played by universities on schools. The great practitioner G.H. Hardy wrote in 1940 that "a gift for mathematics is the most specialised of talents; mathematicians as a class are not distinguished for general ability or versatility". Nowhere does Hardy pretend that maths is anything but an intellectual exercise, for the ivory logarithms and surds down the throats of reluctant GCSE candidates is like the Victorians thrashing Livy into Tom Brown through the seat of his pants.

I doubt if 1 per cent of those who study algebra or trigonometry at GCSE ever need them again.

Such education is more bromide good because mutton says so. Some mathematicians flee to that desperate academic redoubt, that their subject may be useless but at least "trains the mind". So does darts. So does double-entry book-keeping. Any subject, well taught, should train the mind.

Small wonder pupils appear to rebel even against the elementary

maths and science that they clearly should be taught. They rebel because schools make it such a big deal, for instance denying the existence of the calculator. The mathematician John Allen Paulos sets out in his book *Innumeracy* all the post-calculator maths most people need to know. It embraces probability theory, risk, proportion and fuzzy logic. His maths is a life skill: to comprehend rates of interest, insurance premiums, crime hazards, gambling odds, share fiddles, election results. It is a defence against pseudo-science, against sloppy thinking and dud logic, against such phrases as "all pupils should be above average" or "don't use that street, you are sure to be mugged". Little of this features in GCSE or A-level maths, which are designed as preparatory for Professor Hardy's great calling. Paulos's book can be read in a morning.

If some specialist scholarship needs advanced maths or science, it can teach it. The archaeologist learns radiocarbon, the navigator learns trigonometry, the oilman learns soil chemistry — as the theologian learns Hebrew and the exporter Russian. Maths and science are no longer mass vocational skills, if they ever were. Like the farrier, the oddier and the Thatcher, economics is passing

them by. The jobs market wants articulate, literate, imaginative young people who can handle money, know law and languages, appreciate and sell good design, bring demand and supply into equilibrium. They can use a computer and a microchip, without knowing how they work. They can eat a sandwich without ploughing a field of corn.

Students know what they want of education. They know that a full life includes an awareness of Britain's past and present culture, of the pains and pleasures involved in personal and social relationships. They believe arts and social science courses offer this awareness, giving a glimpse of life outside the university.

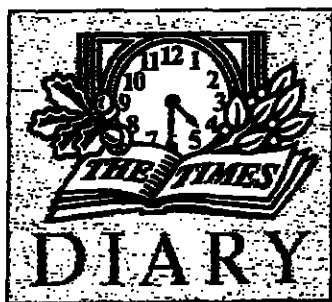
To make such explanation rigorous and challenging is education's job. The Government should look at the A-level and university entry figures and admit it was wrong. It cannot buck the market. The pre-eminence given to maths and science in the core curriculum was a mistake, which could cripple the British economy in the "post-scientific" revolution. But students will not let it. Scissile and alert young people are defying education's restrictive practices. They are defying its vested interests and defining education as they want it to be. Good for them. They know best.

Sport à la carte

HEARTENING news for sports fans who enjoy tucking in to Californian wines, steak and lobster. Lord Gilmore's son Christopher, who opened the unimaginatively named but ultra-fashionable restaurant Christopher's in Covent Garden two years ago, is busy on his next venture: an American-style sports bar.

Gilmore has persuaded Imran Khan and David Gower to throw their weight behind the project, and is looking for other sports personalities to join in. He has chosen a site in South Kensington and envisages a restaurant liberally dotted with television screens beaming out sport for diners. He plans to open before Christmas.

The idea is not entirely novel. Terry Neill, a former manager of Spurs and Arsenal, opened a sports bar in central London last year with ten TV screens. "The punters love it and the atmosphere's great," he says. "It's not just male sports fans either: a lot of the ladies come here to enjoy themselves as well." Gilmore, too, insists the new bar



and restaurant will not be a male-only domain — after all there is the lure of Khan and Gower, and that legendary womaniser and columnist Taki Theodoracopulos is a shareholder of Christopher's. "We have very much planned it so it's not going to be a beer-swilling male paradise. The television screens in the restaurant will be very discreet, not blaring all the time. And the cocktail bar will be very trendy."

She may be starting an Oprah Winfrey-style chat show on ITV, but Vanessa Feltz's interviewing tech-

nique cut little ice with Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, who was a panellist on her show for Greater London Radio yesterday. He left before the programme finished. "She interrupted me three times while I was saying something. I figured I had better things to do with my time."

Bill of health

IT IS difficult to be entirely convinced by Friends of the Earth's gloomy message about the dire state of the nation's rivers. As spokesman Guy Linley-Adams recorded a solemn interview for breakfast television beside the Thames at Westminster on Thursday, an unusually plump comarant swooped into shot and perched on a pillar behind him.

The predatory fish-eaters are unheard of on the river, so as the hapless environmentalist tried to continue with his earnest theme, the BBC cameramen turned their attention to the bird. "It was looking very healthy, which wasn't the best of signs when I was trying to convince people the rivers are polluted," a disconsolate Linley-Adams tells me. An inquiry into the bird's

appearance continues, but Linley-Adams has not ruled out sabotage. "We were wondering if it had been released by the National Rivers Authority."

Let's hope Faye Dunaway is not planning Christmas in London. This year's Regent Street lights are being sponsored by Cameron Mackintosh, the musical producer, and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Theatre Company. The fact the Dunaway is suing Really Useful for £4 million after

A 'STARRED' IN CHEMISTRY... HAVE YOU CONSIDERED ATHLETICS?



her abrupt departure from the Los Angeles production of *Sunset Boulevard* presumably rules her out for the grand celebrity "switch on". Not entirely, says an insider. "It would certainly show a sense of humour. Perhaps she could do it with Patti LaPore."

Hot snap

THE break in the hot weather has come not a moment too soon for the brave souls whose secret life it is to work for M16. For the duration of the summer, staff (especially those about to depart "overseas"), have been discouraged from enjoying the refreshingly breezy riverside terrace at the service's distinctly unsecret new headquarters in Vauxhall.

It seems that M is a little concerned that foreign spies might take the opportunity of taking a quick snap for the files. The potential security lapse was discovered after M16 operatives were dispatched on a dangerous mission to the north side of the Thames and trained long lenses on their own headquarters. What the spooks saw was their bosses loitering on the terrace in close-up detail —



down to the last drop of their vodka martinis. Shaken, of course.

The voluptuous Eve Pollard's departure from the editor's chair at the Sunday Express was recorded by all the national newspapers yesterday — all, that is, apart from the

Daily Express, edited by Sir Nicholas Lloyd, Ms Pollard's spouse, with whom she repairs this weekend to the South of France.

Just the type

SECRETARIES hoping for advancement from the BBC typing pool might be tempted to apply for the job of production assistant on Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*. But I fear a number are falling at the first hurdle. A breathless job description warns prospective candidates that they may be required to "book Josette Simon, organise a line from Jerusalem and choose music for a feature on fake fur" — simultaneously, of course.

"Josette who?" has been the plaintive squawk from more than one aspirant. So let me offer a little help — Josette Simon (left) is the distinguished thespian and former member of the RSC, who is currently finishing a run in Ibsen's *The Lady from the Sea* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. As for the fake fur matter, I suggest a burst of *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*.

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

ROY TRIGG

Roy Trigg, horse show rider and racehorse trainer, died at Malvern, Worcestershire, on August 21 aged 79. He was born at Fareham, Hampshire, on February 14, 1915.

FEW people can remember a time when Roy Trigg was not a major personality on the horse show scene. He was the leading professional of his generation, and kept winning at the top for four decades. He had a most distinguished clientele, who sent him their horses to show, to train, or to break for the racecourse. They included the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, John Dunlop, Guy Harwood, Lady Herries and her mother, Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, Lady Zimna Judd, and the late Ryan Price.

His death at the National Light Horse Championship Show at Malvern was, his friends feel, just how he would have wished to go. Minutes before, he had ridden a lap of honour in the main arena after winning the Jack Gittins Memorial Cup, one that had always eluded him, riding the best young hunter of the season, John Dunlop's Red Hand.

Dismounting at the show stables, he leant on a wall to remove his spurs, collapsed, and died. It all came close to Winston Churchill's observation that nothing but an honourable death is met with in the saddle.

In his lifetime, Trigg rode more than a thousand horses, winning point-to-points and at showjumping, before turning to showing and breaking some of the highest-priced yearlings from the bloodstock sales for leading trainers. In the show ring, he partnered a succession of different horses to win the supreme championships at the Royal Show, the Royal International, Hickstead, the East of England and many more.

However, it was the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley that was his oyster. He won the Leading Show Horse of the Year title on six occasions; his winners included the hunters, Admiral, Aristocrat and Fisherman. He had a rare good eye for a horse which showed top potential, and he was not to be put off buying it, even if the horse was not for sale.

Typical was the occasion when he telephoned the late Jack Gittins, his friend and major show rival in the 1960s, saying that he would like to buy



Roy Trigg on John Dunlop's Red Hand at Windsor

the young Aristocrat. "Too late," said Gittins. "He's on his way back to Ireland. You will have to beat the train to Holyhead." Trigg replied: "I'll have a damn good try." He got the horse for his customer, Miss Margaret Griffin, now president of the International Jumping Jury at Hickstead. Aristocrat, ridden by Trigg, beat all the best horses of Gittins and other top riders for the following two seasons.

Gittins liked to tell the story, adding that letting Trigg buy that horse was the worst piece of horse business he ever did.

Trigg had a great love of cobs, those short-legged, tough, heavyweights

with bright cheeky-chappie faces which in the era before the motor-car carried the parson, the doctor, and the farmer on their rounds, and hitched to a carriage or governess cart, brought the family to town and the children to school.

This love went back to his boyhood days on his father's farm, where cobs were the first horses he knew. On 12 occasions, cobs from his yard (including one Trigg discovered pulling a vegetable cart in Cork city) won the Cob of the Year title at Wembley.

Eleven times, he rode the winner himself, and on the twelfth, his daughter Sue Gibson was in the saddle

and he had to settle for second place. It gave him enormous pleasure to see the cobs, so thin on the ground in the 1950s when he started showing them, becoming the most popular ridden horses of the 1990s at the major shows, because of the vast number of professional people who wish to ride them.

The young horses he broke and which went on to be winners under the rules of racing were numerous, including a St Leger winner for Ryan Price, Bruni. Inevitably with horses, there were failures. The one he regretted most of all was the Queen's handsome middleweight chestnut, Brigadier, who, with his enormous presence, was seen as the perfect mount for the Queen at Trooping the Colour. Trigg schooled the horse to the highest standards and made him negotiate all sorts of hazards before returning him to Buckingham Palace "bomb proof", as the saying goes in the horse world.

But it was not quite so, as things turned out. The horse was discovered to be terrified of the bear skins worn by the Guards regiments. Nobody at the Royal Mews could conquer his fears, so he never carried the Queen at the Trooping. Instead, he was given to the Metropolitan Police to spend the rest of his life on mundane police duties. Trigg always regretted that he never thought of getting a line of bearskins in the stable to restore the horse's confidence.

Trigg came of farming stock, his parents being Mr and Mrs Roland Trigg, of Fareham, Hampshire, and remained to the end of his days proud of his farming roots. At Wembley, it was usual for competitors in top events to wear scarlet hunting coats and silk top hats. Trigg refused. He stuck to a dark coat and black hunting cap, saying: "I'm a farmer, and I'm correctly dressed for a farmer."

He had a reputation of being careful with money, but it was not that so much as that he would always want to buy well, saying that good things last. As a young man, he purchased a second-hand grey buckskin saddle. It was the saddle on which he rode all his champions, including the last. It was stamped Mayhew, London, 1918.

He married twice, first Barbara Geering, a successful show rider by whom he had two daughters. This marriage was dissolved and he married, secondly, Annette Landau. She survives him with the two children of his first marriage.

ROBERT ROZHDESTVENSKY

Robert Rozhdestvensky, Russian poet, died in hospital in Moscow after a heart attack on August 19 aged 62. He was born in southern central Siberia on January 20, 1932.



LIKE Yevgeny Yevtushenko and Andrei Voznesensky, with whom he may be loosely bracketed, Robert Rozhdestvensky coexisted happily enough with the Soviet regime which found him harmless. This did not save him from having his wrists slapped on occasions. In 1968 he was severely taken to task in the columns of the Russian Republic newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* for daring to publish a poem which asked the question "Why do I live?"

In an article attacking the poet, a welder from a factory in the Urals expressed amazement that any Soviet citizen could ask such a question and criticised Rozhdestvensky for representing the Soviet Union as a land peopled by "philistines, ignoramuses and cowards". The loyal welder went on to give the poet a stern talking to about the ideals and dignity reposing in the bosom of the common man. It was a characteristic official ploy to ensure that Soviet writers did not let their declamatory exuberance carry them too far from the straight and narrow of socialist realism.

Robert Ivanovich Rozhdestvensky was born in the village of Kosikhin in the Altai mountain region which abuts Mongolia. His first poem was published when he was nine in 1941, shortly after the Germans invaded the Soviet Union.

Both his parents were killed later that year and Rozhdest-

vensky was educated at the Gorky Institute of Literature in Moscow. From 1950 he embarked on a full-time career as a writer. His first collection, *Flags of Spring*, was published in 1955.

Like Yevtushenko and Voznesensky, he inherited the mantle and poetic technique of Mayakovsky (who had committed suicide in 1930 as a personal protest against the Stalin regime) and with them became a guardian of the poet's shrine. This involved no conflict with the regime since Stalin himself, while thoroughly relieved to have Mayakovsky out of the way, had ensured the poet's posthumous fame with a hypocritical encomium on his talents and service to the Soviet Union.

When, in 1963, Khrushchev launched his campaign against the cultural avant-garde with his notorious verbal onslaught on a modern art exhibition in Moscow, Rozhdestvensky remained silent, even though his friend Yevtushenko was among

those castigated (in his case for "treason" in allowing his memoirs to be published abroad).

Yet, there was enough of the genuine poet in Rozhdestvensky to enable him to fall foul of the authorities five years later, with his poem entitled "On Different Points of View" which was published in the youth magazine *Yunost*. This posited an "Academy of Serious Sciences" which prohibits the use of question marks as being "pessimistic". In the poem Rozhdestvensky asked such questions as "How are examinations to be set?", "How will a husband ask his wife why she is looking pale?" and "How is a doctor to discover where the pain is?"

This insistence on the right to doubt came, however, at a time when a number of Soviet writers were being tried for casting doubts on the wisdom of imprisoning the dissident authors, Daniel and Sinyavsky. In the Soviet Union it was caustically (though not too loudly) observed that neither Rozhdestvensky nor Yevtushenko was likely to protest against these trials. The rebuke from the worthy Urals factory worker was evidently considered enough of a check to Rozhdestvensky's temerity.

For all that, Rozhdestvensky was a well-liked member of the Sixties generation of Soviet poets and was, personally, a kind and humorous man. Among his best-known works were *Requiem* (1961) a poem of war, *The Heart's Radar* (1971) and *Two Hundred and Ten Steps* (1978) which won the USSR state prize in 1979. His verses were set by a number of Soviet composers at different times.

Rozhdestvensky leaves a widow and two daughters.

MARGARET HAYMAN



Margaret Hayman, former president of the Mathematical Association, died on July 26 aged 70. She was born in York on August 7, 1923.

SOME twenty years ago Margaret Hayman began to be a prominent figure in national efforts to improve education in mathematics. In particular, she wanted to ensure that able youngsters were given challenging teaching and their abilities stretched inside and outside the classroom. For this purpose she initiated (with the assistance of her husband Walter) the British Mathematical Olympiad, and fostered its standing in the wider mathematical Olympiad movement in the world.

She also involved herself in the organisation of Royal Institution mathematical master classes. Her work on improving mathematical teaching led to her becoming president of the Mathematical Association, the chief organisation for teachers of mathematics. It also led to her serving on the council of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.

Margaret Crann, as she was known before her marriage, was born into a family involved in education, her father having been a research chemist and her mother a teacher. She went to Newnham College, Cambridge, in 1941 from Mill Mount School, York. She read mathematics and geography, graduating in 1944.

Margaret Hayman was a committed Quaker and a skilled and active amateur violinist. She held a number of teaching appointments from 1945 onwards, retiring as head of mathematics at Putney High School in 1984. In 1947 she married the mathematician Professor Walter Hayman, soon to be elected FRS. In many ways her abilities complemented his more academic ones. They had three daughters, all of whom followed their mother to Newnham College. Her husband and daughters all survive her.

BILL COWLEY

Bill Cowley, founder of the Lyke Wake Walk, died on August 14 aged 77. He was born in Middlesbrough in November 16, 1916.

BILL COWLEY was the man who opened up one of England's favourite rambling routes, the Lyke Wake Walk, which traditionally stretched 44 miles from the Queen Catherine pub in Osmotherley to the café in Ravenscar, on the coast between Whitby and Scarborough. In the forty years since Cowley discovered this spectacularly wild stretch of moorland for hikers, it became North Yorkshire's most popular walk, far outdoing such routes as the White Rose Walk and the Coast to Coast.

William Cowley was a gentleman farmer who joined the Indian Civil Service before returning after independence to farm in the area around Pott's Hill by the North Yorkshire Moors, as his father had done before him. He became obsessed with the local dialect and history, and discovered that in ancient times there had been only two consecrated burial spots in the area — at Ravenscar, on the east coast, and Grimsby, many miles inland. Thus the bodies of the dead from his area were routinely carried the length of



the moors to the grounds at Ravenscar, by what were known as "dirgers", accompanied by the mournful tune of the Lyke Wake Dirge.

This eye need, this eye need, livery neat an' all, Fire an' fleet an' cannie leal, An' Christ tak up thy saul.

In 1955 Cowley issued a challenge to readers of the *Dalesman* magazine to cross the trackless moors between Mount Grace Priory and Ravenscar cliff in 24 hours "kicking up a cloud of purple heather pollen every step for 40 miles". Within a matter of months, the track was being tramped by a procession of

ramblers, issued with one of Cowley's black-edged coffin-shaped dirger badges.

The procession gradually grew into an army, and at one point, in the 1970s, there were almost 20,000 people a year trudging across the route. The hitherto unspoiled beauty of White Moor and Fylingdales Moor was gradually turned, along with much of the rest of the route, into a muddy dual carriageway almost 20 ft wide in some places, with serious soil erosion problems.

Eventually, by the end of the 1980s, Cowley was forced to concede that the walk should be spread along four or five alternative routes, all roughly the same time and distance, but taking in pretty villages, valleys and roads, and that large parties should be discouraged.

Cowley was a good-humoured man, willing to try anything new, and in 1957, with very little prior experience, took part in a three-month mountaineering expedition to the Himalayas.

He is survived by his wife Jean, three sons and a daughter.

Thomas Scott, assistant night editor of *The Times*, 1949-64, died on August 22 aged 95. He was born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, on February 23, 1899.

TOM SCOTT's career reached its peak on November 22, 1963, when, as *The Times*'s duty night editor, he was responsible for the presentation of the news of the assassination of President Kennedy.

The first news flashes reporting the shooting in Dallas reached the foreign news desk at 7pm, only two and a quarter hours before the first edition went to press, and it was Scott's job to rearrange the layout of the news reports, the feature profiles, the leader column and the obituary as they were constantly being updated and extended to take account of developments as the shock waves reverberated in America and around the world. At Printing House Square it was generally agreed that the heaviest pressure of work on the editorial side in London that night fell on Scott and — as he retired three months later — it was a fitting climax to a career in journalism that had spanned 45 years.

Thomas Logan Scott was the son of a journalist and was educated in Glasgow at Queen's Park Higher Grade School and the Athenaeum. With the First World War underway when he left school in 1917, he joined the Army and served in France and Germany. Demobbed in 1919 he joined a local newspaper in Govan and, after getting more experience on other Scottish papers, joined the *Glasgow Herald*. Later he moved south and, after a spell on the *Western Morning News* in Plymouth, went to Malaysia to work on the *Penang Gazette*.

When he came back to England in 1933 he approached *The Times* for a job. He was given a trial, during which the report assessing his work said: "He has that granite temperament and physique

that will make him a very useful reserve for work on the stone" — a journalistic term for the surface on which pages were made up in metal by compositors.

Scott thus became a sub-editor. He made his mark on the mechanical side ensuring that pages went to press on time and that the editions of the paper caught the newspaper trains for distribution across the country. He served on the night editor's staff throughout the Second World War when the staff braved the Blitz, working and sleeping in the basement of Printing House Square to ensure the paper's continuous publication. Living and working un-



derground throughout the air raids he was, in the early hours of the morning, the only member of the editorial staff who was officially on duty. This gave him an unexpected opportunity to get to know Geoffrey Dawson, the paper's editor and the architect of its prewar policy of appeasement towards Germany.

By 1940, Dawson was 66 and not well but he insisted on staying on at the office each night rather than going home, although, said Scott, the conditions were obviously too much for him. In a graphic descrip-

tion of the circumstances underground at Printing House Square during the Blitz, recounted in *The Story of The Times* (1983), Scott recalled how Dawson would sit opposite him, a kind of opera-cloak draped over his shoulders, and open the conversation each night, or morning with the same remark: "Anything of importance happening?"

"He never at any time mentioned the bombing that was going on," said Scott. "I would give him a summary of the news that had come in since the first edition of the paper, which he had already read. He would listen closely, his bottom lip drooping as it usually did when he was listening to every word spoken to him."

Scott said he learnt a great deal from Dawson's conversations during those early-morning visits when the editor could not sleep in the cubby hole that served as his bedroom. He had known little about Dawson before war broke out except his support for the policy of appeasement (with which he, Scott, did not agree). But as a result of those sessions during the nights of the Blitz, he grew to like Dawson, "first as a fine man and, second, as a first-class journalist who was assisting a younger newspaperman enormously. It saddened me a lot to read after the war some estimates of this much-maligned editor."

After Dawson's retirement in 1941, Scott continued working on the night editor's staff under three further editors, R. M. Barrington-Ward, W. F. Casey and Sir William Haley. He was promoted assistant night editor in charge of make-up in 1949 and when he retired in 1964 had spent 31 years on *The Times*.

He spent his retirement first in Hove, Sussex, and then in Buxton before moving in 1977 to the Newspaper Press Fund's retirement home in Dorking, Surrey. His wife Clara predeceased him; he is survived by a daughter.

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RENEWED RAIN.
EXTENSION OF THE FLOODS.
No part of the country, it seems, is destined to escape the heavy rains. At the close of last week Ireland and the northern parts of England and Wales were the chief sufferers. Yesterday, when a small cyclonic disturbance came up from the Bay of Biscay, the severest rain fell in the east and south-east of England and the neighbouring parts of France.

ON THIS DAY
August 27 1912
This remarkable rainfall was long remembered in an East Anglia unused to such deluges. Between 4am and 3.15pm, on the day mentioned in this report, six inches fell in Norwich and, at nearby Brundall, the figure was later given as 8.09 in.

disturbed a state of the atmosphere as could well be imagined. At 7 a.m. a complete chain of barometrical depressions extended from the Atlantic across the whole of North-Western Europe. The depression which caused the tremendous fall of rain over our eastern counties produced very strong winds from west and south-west in the Channel, and a gale from the north-eastward on the coasts of Norfolk and Lincolnshire. By 6 p.m. the depression was passing away over the North Sea, but rain was still falling over nearly the whole of England and Wales, and on the Norfolk coast a strong gale had sprung up from the westward.

In many parts of the country traffic has been much impeded. At no time in recent years has the Great Eastern Railway suffered so much as it did yesterday. Part of the line at Fording, between Norwich and Ipswich, was washed away, and no traffic between Norwich and Ipswich was possible after 10 o'clock. The Waveney Valley line is under water, while between Norwich and Lowestoft there is serious flooding of the line. The service between Norwich and Cromer is likewise suspended. Many portions of the railway between Bournemouth and Southampton are submerged, and water is flowing over with such force that the ballast has been washed away.

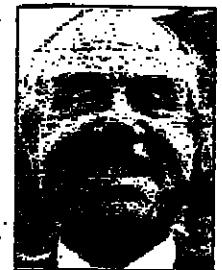
The Great Northern express from King's Cross to Cromer, Yarmouth, and other East Coast towns, with many holiday and business passengers, was stopped at King's Lynn last night. The passengers with their luggage were deposited on the flooded platform, and after waiting about for some time went out in the heavy rain to seek lodgings in the town. Many of the passengers had children with them.

At Leicester the cellars of many houses are full of water, the choked sewers being unable to carry away all the rain. The bursting of a bank at Codrington caused extensive flooding of the main streets. At Alconbury and Alconbury Weston the water rose 18 in. in the afternoon, and people were removing their furniture to their bedrooms. Similar conditions prevail at West Bridgford, the principal suburb of Nottingham. The floods at Peterborough Bridge are 7 ft above the normal, and anxiety is felt for its safety.

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PROFILE 21
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MELVYN MARCKUS 20
Our City Editor reviews the Archer affair



SPORT 30-36
Mary Pierce returns to limelight at US Open tennis

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THE TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 27 1994

British Coal to axe further 2,000 white-collar jobs

By Ross TIERMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Coal is to shed 2,000 more white-collar workers over the next six months. It confirmed the scale of job losses for the first time yesterday after finalising plans for further cutbacks before its £500 million privatisation this autumn.

The corporation said that only 12,000 of the 14,000 remaining staff would have their jobs protected when it is split into five regional segments and auctioned. The cuts follow a long-running programme of contraction. During the latter part of 1992 and

early 1993, 30,000 mine workers were shed. The new job losses will fall heaviest on management and clerical staff. Employees at Hobart House, the corporate headquarters in London, have been told that almost all of them are likely to be made redundant.

However, the corporation yesterday confirmed that staff at the operational headquarters at Eastwood Hall near Nottingham would also be hard hit, together with regional officials in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. Many of those affected will be professional, well qualified people. Some have been with the corporation for many years. Kevan Hunt, British Coal's employee

relations director, said he was confident that the attributes of dedicated staff would be recognised by those businesses seeking to recruit in the months ahead.

He also insisted that because of action taken earlier to improve the competitiveness of the core mining operations, he was confident that job losses would be confined to white-collar staff.

In discussions with employee unions this week, the corporation said that 8,300 industrial and non-industrial employees were likely to transfer to the successor companies which are to be sold. They include miners at the 16 remaining deep mines and

machine operators at open-cast sites. A further 4,000 employees of subsidiaries, in activities ranging from coal distribution to provision of computer services, will also be protected. About 350 workers at Compower and British Coal Information Technology have been transferred already through the sale of the companies to Philips Communications and Processing Services and Origin Technology in Business, its joint venture partner.

Employees at Coal Products, Britain's largest smokeless fuel company, are still waiting for the corporation to pick a buyer for the business. British Fuels, the coal

distribution business based in Harrogate, is to be split into three for sale by competitive tender next spring.

CIN Management, the corporation's pension fund management arm, and the Coal Research Establishment in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, are also to be offered later. Many employees in the corporation's coal technology development division are likely to be made redundant.

Some British Coal employees will hope to find jobs in the Coal Authority, the new resources supervisory body in Mansfield, Nottingham. However, it will have only about 100 staff.

Banks accused over soaring account charges

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBERT MILLER

CHARGES levied on customers by the big four banks have soared by half, to £6.5 billion, in the past five years, a survey by the Labour Party shows. Labour is calling for a review of charges. It says personal and business customers have been hit in the pocket as banking profits have risen by up to 50 per cent a year and dividends have doubled since before the recession.

The study shows that the big four — Midland, Barclays, NatWest and Lloyds — are making £3.8 billion in earnings from current accounts. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said the survey raised questions about the extent to which profits and dividends had resulted from increased efficiency, and how far they came from overcharging customers. Bank profits should be matched by a better deal for customers, he said.

The British Bankers' Association said "the rise in revenues from charges, fees and commissions which the Labour Party targets includes foreign exchange and wholesale busi-

ness activities of the banks, which have nothing to do with personal customers". It added that an estimated three-quarters of personal bank customers paid no charges.

According to the figures assembled by Labour researchers, new charges and rises in old ones mean that fees, commissions and charges by the big four have risen £2 billion since 1989, from £4.5 billion to £6.5 billion. Britain's nine biggest banks also made a record £13.4 billion on charges unrelated to interest. Mr Brown said, "In addition to the fees, charges and commissions, we estimate that the top four are making £3.8 billion in earnings from current accounts." Credit card rates were as high as 22.4 per cent and store cards charged up to 29 per cent.

He said Labour's figures showed that charges had gone up while total dividends had risen from £957 million for the nine banks in 1988, to £1.73 billion last year. Labour wanted a review of charges, with a view to reducing them. It also

wanted the Office of Fair Trading to look at banks' treatment of small businesses.

Mr Brown's assault follows the announcement of Midland's half-year profits of £443 million — up £58 million on the same period the previous year. Barclays made a record £1.04 billion in the six months to June 30, compared with £335 million in the first half of 1993. Mr Brown's figures show that the big four banks are likely to make total pre-tax profits of £5.3 billion this year, compared with £3.6 billion last year and £1.1 billion in 1992. Mr Brown said dividends had doubled since the late 1980s.

The banks called Labour's figures misleading. A Lloyds spokesman said: "The survey talks about fees and commissions without taking the trouble to separate out what is earned from corporate and international business and what comes from personal and small business customers." Four fifths of Lloyds customers paid no charges.

Midland commented: "Branch fee and commission income declined last year after a revision of charges."

Mr Brown's attack raises the spectre of a windfall tax on bank profits under a Labour government, similar to that raised in 1981 by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the then Chancellor.

A Barclays spokesman said: "Any windfall tax ought to be related to windfall profits. In 1981, interest rates were very high; now, they are very low. We have frozen our charges for both personal and business customers for the whole of this year. Our profits... are considerably less than they should be."

Stephen Murfin, Wyevale Garden Centres' finance director, still has £7 million to spend on quality sites



Dow soars by 50 points

AMERICAN financial markets soared yesterday after a weaker than expected set of growth figures allayed fears of another interest rate rise from the Federal Reserve (Janet Bush writes). Growth in gross domestic product was revised up to 3.8 per cent in the second quarter from the 3.7 per cent previously estimated.

The rally was led by US Treasury bonds, and buying swiftly spread to the dollar

and to shares. The dollar broke through the Y100 mark and added more than two pence against the mark.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped by more than 50 points by midday.

Rallying US markets helped European bonds and shares. The FT-SE 100 index ended 30.9 points higher at 3,265.1.

Market report, page 22

Wyevale branches out

WYEVALE Garden Centres, Britain's largest specialist garden centre company, is branching out, with the acquisition of two new outlets for £1.7 million in cash (Neil Bennett writes).

The company is buying prime sites in Keynsham, Bristol and West Drayton, Middlesex from Hurrans Garden Centres, a privately-owned business. This will bring the total number of centres owned by Wyevale to 43.

Steve Murfin, finance director, said: "We have still got £7 million of cash in the bank and are still very keen to acquire more quality sites." Wyevale launched a £10.9 million rights issue last November to fund acquisitions and reduce debt, and earlier this year raised £9.7 million from the sale of its Homelands Retail Park.

C&G sets up helpline on takeover bonuses



By SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

CHELTENHAM & Gloucester Building Society has bowed to pressure from disgruntled customers and set up a helpline for savers wanting to know if they will qualify for shares of Lloyds Bank's £1.8 billion takeover bonuses.

The society, headed by Andrew Longhurst, has been criticised for its refusal to discuss the terms of the takeover with customers or to go into details of individual cases. It has been telling customers it cannot say anything for "legal reasons". It says it has to give the same information to all its customers and cannot risk appearing to influence

anyone to vote in favour of the proposals.

The High Court ruled in June that C&G could not make payments to borrowers or voting investors of less than two years' standing. This forced the society to revise its payout plans. The result was much more complicated than the original scheme, as the C&G tried to fit in with the terms of the judgment.

Now, depositors do not have to qualify under the two-year rule but holders of share accounts do.

This disenfranchised customers who had moved from deposit accounts to share accounts since December 1992. Many voting members who have been named second on share accounts in the past two years also no longer qualify, because they

have not been members in their own right for two years. Members are confused by the complexity and unsure whether they will qualify for payouts.

C&G has set up a helpline manned by an unspecified number of "fully trained" staff. They will be able to answer queries about investors' specific circumstances and tell them if they qualify for payouts. But they will not be able to discuss the rights and wrongs of the takeover.

The helpline is an extension of the society's Futureline service, which gave out a computerised message telling callers what information they should have received from the society.

Weekend Money, page 25



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LONDON CLOSING PRICES			MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 22 SHARE PRICES PAGE 29		

Lord Archer's slings and arrows

A week, so they say, is a long time in politics. Seven weeks, it can safely be assumed, is significantly longer, particularly if one's foothold in politics appears to become more tenuous by the day. Such is the plight of Jeffrey Archer, the fiction-penned peer and Tory Party cheerleader.

It was on July 8 that *The Times* disclosed the Department of Trade and Industry's investigation into Lord Archer's involvement in share dealings in Anglia Television — where his wife is a non-executive director — just days before media combine MAI launched an agreed £292 million takeover bid. That was when Lord Archer declared: "It is completely untrue. I did not buy any shares. I am not going to make a statement. That sort of accusation is libellous. Thank you." Much water, a considerable amount of information and not a little flotsam has flowed under the bridge and past the Archers' Thames-side penthouse since then.

Details of Lord Archer's contro-

versial transactions, albeit on behalf of a close associate, Brooksbank, an Iraqi Kurd, have been well chronicled. By way of a précis:

□ Lord Archer requested Charles Stanley, a stockbroking firm with which he had not dealt before, to purchase 25,000 Anglia shares on January 13.

□ The stockbroker assumed that Lord Archer was purchasing the shares on his own behalf, but, upon reporting the transaction, was informed by Archer that the shares should be booked in the name of Brooksbank. Mr Saib, like Lord Archer, had not previously enjoyed the privilege of dealing through Charles Stanley.

□ The following day, Friday, January 14, Lord Archer instructed Charles Stanley to purchase a further 25,000 shares, once again for the account of Mr Saib. Both parcels of shares were acquired for "new time" (in respect of the following Stock Exchange account period). The address given for correspondence with Mr Saib was Lord Archer's London residence at

Alembic House near Vauxhall Bridge.

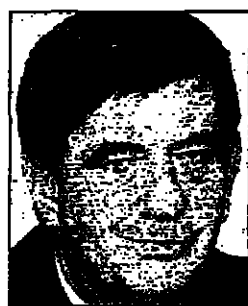
□ Four days later, on Tuesday, January 18, MAI, led by Lord Holford, launched its takeover bid. Anglia's share price soared 180p to 664p and Lord Archer promptly told Charles Stanley to sell.

□ The deal yielded a profit of £80,000 (before tax) and Charles Stanley duly forwarded a cheque, made out to Mr Saib, to Lord Archer's address. The cheque was subsequently cashed via a UK bank.

The flavour of the affair receives added tang from indications yesterday that MAI's crucial presentation of its takeover terms — not far short of those finally agreed — to Anglia's directors was made on the morning of Wednesday, January 12.

Lord Archer has always maintained that he was not privy to insider information, nor a beneficiary, of the Anglia share deals.

Such details, many of which came courtesy of *The Sunday Times* and the *Financial Times*, started to leak a little more than a



MELVYN MARCKUS

week ago: fully three weeks after Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, reached his verdict on the inspectors' inquiry. Heseltine's message was that "on the basis of the report and departmental and other independent legal advice" he had concluded that the DTI "should take no further action against any of the parties concerned in the investigation".

In the event, the flow of revela-

tions served to promote the naive view in certain quarters of Westminster and what was once Fleet Street that the DTI's externally appointed inspectors — an accountant and a lawyer — might not have had the wit to unearth such data. After five months of due diligence, with questions put to Lord Archer, Dr Mary Archer, Brooksbank, Charles Stanley, MAI, Anglia and others, even the most cynical observer must assume that the inspectors (about the only people who haven't been named in this inquiry) managed to unravel the share dealings in question and the identities of those involved. The reality is that the Stock Exchange's Insider Dealing Unit put the key pieces of the jigsaw in place within a matter of days before forwarding its dossier to the DTI.

Robin Cook, shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, seized the cudgel. He let it be known that he was writing to the minister who once seized the mace to demand that the inspectors' report should be forwarded to the Crown Prosecution

Service. In his words: "The public now need a second opinion if they are to believe that the report comes up with a clean bill of health. One Tory politician should not sit in judgment on another Tory politician."

It was against this background that Lord Archer, advised by his lawyer Lord Mishkin, admitted on Wednesday that he had made "a grave error" in allowing his name to be associated with the Anglia transactions in view of his wife's directorship. Equally, it was stressed that the media had disclosed "no new facts" which had not been investigated by the inspectors.

Cook continued to press his case. "It is now even harder to understand why Michael Heseltine took no action if he knew all the allegations and knew they were true."

A reply to Cook's correspondence, written in Heseltine's absence by Neil Hamilton, under secretary of state for corporate affairs, was released to the press. This stressed that Heseltine's decision to take no further action was "wholly consis-

tent both with the inspectors' conclusions and with counsel's advice".

That said, the DTI confirms that it would be prepared to break with tradition and publish the inspectors' report compiled under section 177 of the Financial Services Act "if consent was forthcoming from those who gave evidence and from third parties discussed in the report".

The problem for Lord Archer, desperate to draw a line under the affair, is that section 177 reports are not written with an eye to publication as is the case with reports under the Companies Act sections 432 and 442.

In the case of the latter, those involved invariably receive draft copies of the inspectors' findings in relation to themselves in order to make observations. No such notices occur in the case of a section 177 report which means that agreement to publication represents a step in the dark. Lord Archer may thus harbour certain qualms over a "publish and be damned" approach.

BP marks end of big asset sales with \$425m nutrition disposal

By CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH Petroleum has agreed to the disposal of its nutrition businesses in a \$425 million management buy-out, the largest of the year, backed by the venture capital arms of British Coal's pension funds (CINVen) and Barings.

The sale, mooted in March with the announcement of negotiations by BP, marks the final chapter in a programme of asset sales launched by the oil company two years ago aimed at reducing its borrowings. The proceeds of the sale of BP Nutrition could reduce BP's debt from \$11.4 billion at the end of June to \$11 billion, well within the company's "comfort" range of \$10-12 billion.

Nutreco, a new company led by Richard van Wijnbergen, former chief operating officer of BP Nutrition, will take over 20 operating companies

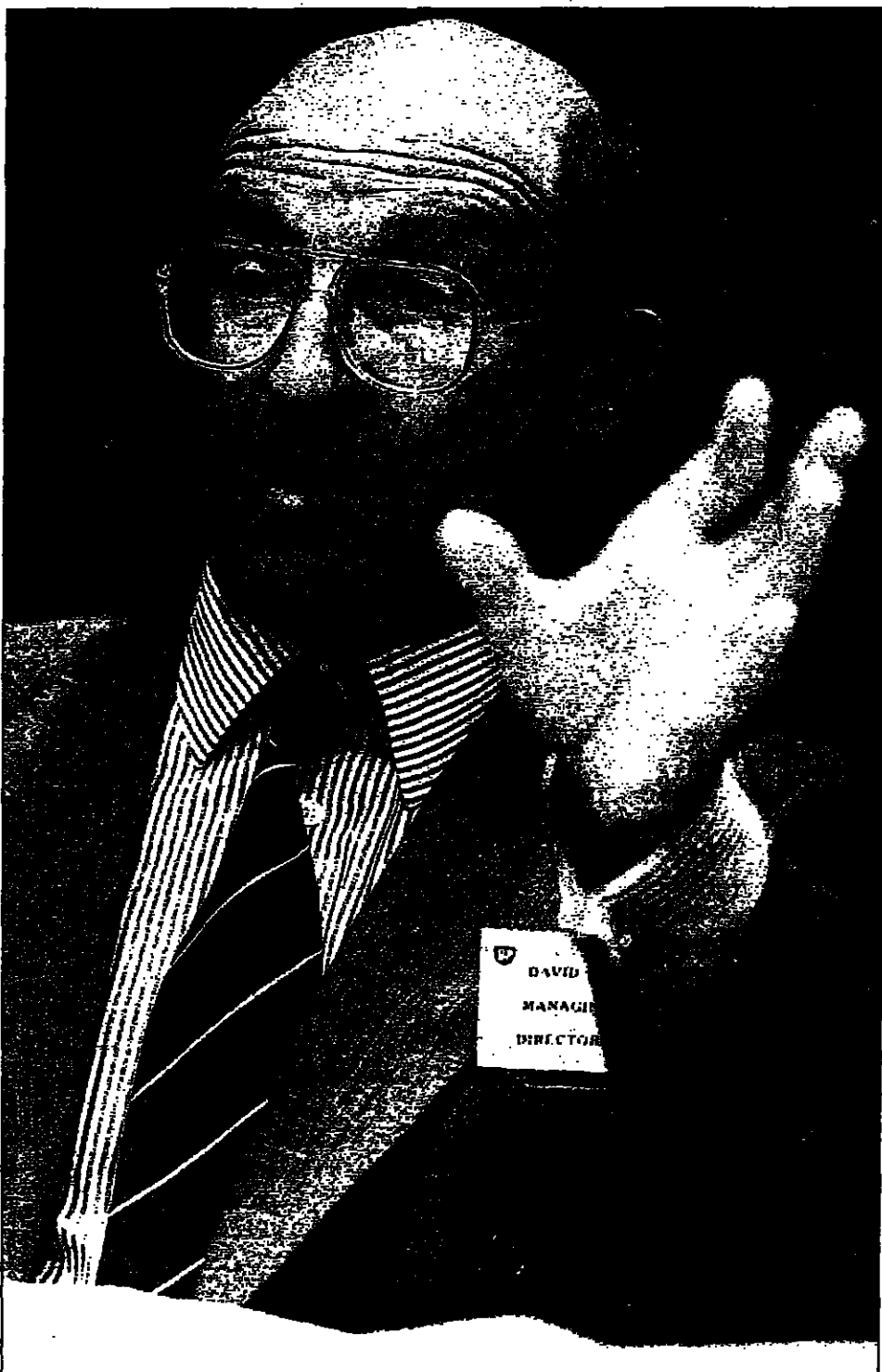
and 5,700 staff involved in aquaculture, feed and animal products and breeding. Last year, the businesses had sales of \$2.3 billion and operating profits of about \$70 million.

Total funding for the deal, including a working capital facility, will be \$550 million and has been arranged by CINVen and Barings Capital Investors. Finance is being provided by \$340 million of senior debt, \$50 million of mezzanine debt and \$160 million in equity, of which the management will have a minority stake. Charles Nicholson, a senior director of CINVen, said a flotation could be envisaged in the future.

"It was a fiercely complicated and difficult transaction," he commented. The BP Nutrition business has more than 60 production and processing plants in 15 countries from Europe to Chile. The business includes the world's leading company supplying fish feed for salmon and trout.

BP set up its nutrition operations in the 1970s on the back of experiments in transforming hydrocarbons into food products. The business mushroomed and at the end of December had \$450 million capital employed. A crash programme of asset disposals launched by David Simon, BP's chief, aimed at cutting debt, targeted non-core businesses like nutrition. Yesterday's sale is the last of BP's big non-core assets but small disposals and sales of higher-cost oil assets will continue.

CINVen has accelerated its investment in management buy-outs this year, spending £200 million since January, already as much as was invested in the whole of last year. Mr Nicholson said the fall in the equity market has made deals more attractive. "Last year pricing was too high and we had to compete with flotation prices. This year we have had the opportunities and the industry has been very busy," he added.



David Simon, the managing director, has now completed BP's big sell-off

Advisers' aide apologises to MPs

By ROBERT MILLER

A CONSULTANT to Knight Williams, the firm of independent financial advisers criticised by an investors' action group, has written to all 651 MPs to apologise for suggesting that certain of the eight MPs who signed a Commons motion criticising the firm had acted improperly.

Joe Egerton, the consultant, yesterday said he had sent the August 15 letter, headed "An apology", because "MPs have misunderstood what I said in an earlier letter". He added: "We have never accused any MP of acting improperly and corruptly and I'm sorry if that is the impression they have got."

Mr Egerton had written to

all MPs, singling out three signatories of the July 19 motion. He wrote: "The Register of Members' Interests shows that Mr [John] Gurnell is a director of Yorkshire Fund Managers; Sir Anthony Grant is remunerated by Barclays Bank, whose life company subsidiary Barclays Life, was severely rebuked by the [Securities and Investments Board]... Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith is a consultant to Eagle Star. The firms in question should clearly have taken greater care to brief their retained MPs. All three firms are competitors of Knight Williams."

In his latest letter, Mr Eger-

ton says: "May I make it clear that I have never suggested that anyone signed [the motion] from improper motives."

Knight Williams has more than £500 million of funds under management and 26,000 investors. The funds are managed by leading City firms. KW has been the subject of complaints to Fimbra, the regulator of independent financial advisers, the Consumers' Association and MPs.

The KW action group has called for complaints against KW to be considered by an independent arbitrator, rather than by the firm. Mr Egerton said: "There is no way we can deal with these complaints on

a case-by-case basis without discussing individual files. We have always said that we are happy to pay compensation to investors who have been disadvantaged, and we will continue to do so. But if the action group won't let us consider these, some of their members stand to be disadvantaged by not receiving compensation they might be entitled to."

KW's latest report and accounts show that, in the financial year to October 31, "compensation paid out in arbitration was £92,080,50p". This was to 20 investors. Last night, KW said that, so far this financial year, it had paid £6,200 in compensation.

BM trims debts with £17m sale of Benford

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE drive by BM Group, the engineering company, to cut its debts has taken a further step with the £17 million sale of Benford to Powerscreen International. The disposal follows last month's £14 million sale of Mitchell, BM's American distribution business.

The two sales knock £28 million off BM Group borrowings, which, at the June 30 year end, stood at £65 million. BM was a stock market star, but its share price collapsed after Roger Shute, the founder chairman, resigned in 1992. The shares fell from a peak of 425p in November 1991 to 16p in August 1993. Yesterday, they rose 4p, to 48p.

Cliff Walker, chief executive, said the unsolicited approach for Benford had let BM cut borrowings without having to tap shareholders for fresh funds. He said that renegotiation of bank borrowing facilities was progressing well. This is helped by BM's reduction of borrowings from last year's £160 million to below its target level of £50 million. Other disposals are in the pipeline.

Benford, a maker and distributor of construction equipment, lost £1 million, on sales of £31.4 million, in the year to June 30. Powerscreen is paying BM £12.8 million and 1.4 million Powerscreen ordinary shares with a guaranteed disposal value of £4.2 million.

Tempus, page 21

Acquisitions at Business Technology

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE new management that took charge of Business Technology Group last October has made its first big move to transform the photocopyer and facsimile group.

Alan Baldwin, who replaced Tony Berry as BTG chairman, is spending £9.8 million on two acquisitions. BTG is paying £5 million in cash and £3.3 million in shares for Captain Cargo, an overnight parcel and freight delivery service based in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. It made £1.3 million profit on turnover of £15.1 million in 1993. BTG is also paying £1.5 million for Photostatic, which sells and services Sharp copiers. BTG will change its name to Berkeley Business Group. The shares were suspended at 8½p, pending the announcement.

BTG lost £96,000 before tax in the six months to June (£233,000 loss). The dividend is again passed. The group has placed 143 million shares at 7p to raise £10 million. Existing shareholders can subscribe for half the placing on a nine-for-every-ten-held basis.

BUSINESS FOUNDIE

Leyland Trucks 'well established'

LEYLAND Trucks is increasing sales in all its main markets and faces a bright outlook, John Gilchrist, chief executive, said yesterday. His upbeat forecast accompanied an announcement of pre-tax profits of £8.4 million for the 11 months to April 30 by the company, established by a management buyout after the Anglo-Dutch Leyland DAF group went into receivership in January last year. The buyout team that took over the Lancashire lorry assembly plant and 620 employees has lifted daily output by 20 per cent.

In spite of a drop in deliveries to the Army as the current contract to supply four-tonne trucks nears completion, the company is now "well established", Mr Gilchrist said. "We can look forward with confidence to the remainder of 1994 and with optimism to the longer-term future," he said.

Mail price blunder

SUGGESTIONS that the *Daily Mail* had joined the newspaper price-cutting war were swiftly quashed yesterday. The newspaper published a formal statement saying it would continue to cost 32p. A production error resulted in about 200,000 copies being distributed in London at 20p. *Daily Mail* and General Trust, the paper's parent, told the Stock Exchange a mistake had been made. The newspaper is experimenting with a reduced price in Northern Ireland, and someone forgot to change the masthead.

Start-ups up, failures fall

THE climate for small businesses is improving with the number of start-ups rising steadily while the level of failures has fallen, according to the *Small Business Bulletin* from Barclays. Start-ups in the first half of this year totalled 226,900 compared with 205,200 in the same period last year. Closures in the second quarter were down 15.9 per cent on the same period last year. KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, reported that bankruptcies and liquidations fell to 10,610 in the second quarter of this year from 11,970 in the first quarter.

Halt for Euro Disney

SHARES in Euro Disney were suspended for 15 minutes on the Paris bourse yesterday after falling more than 10 per cent in volatile trading. An automatic "cooling off" suspension came into effect after the shares hit Fr53.30, down from a closing price of Fr10.30 the previous day. The bourse stops trading in a share for 15 minutes if a price varies by 10 per cent. A further suspension is carried out if the price moves another 5 per cent. The fall was blamed largely on technical factors. In London, the shares fell 9p to 117p.

Russian bank buys stake

BANK Vozrozhdeniye, a Moscow commercial bank, is to pay \$1 million for a 2.5 per cent stake in Middlesex Holdings, the mining and metals group based in London that was previously known as Clogau Gold Mines and Ferromet. Masoud Amir Alizkhani, Middlesex chief executive, said: "The activities of Middlesex have expanded rapidly in the former Soviet Union in a short time, largely due to the commercial and public affairs expertise of which we have access through our advisers and business partners."

Housing in doldrums

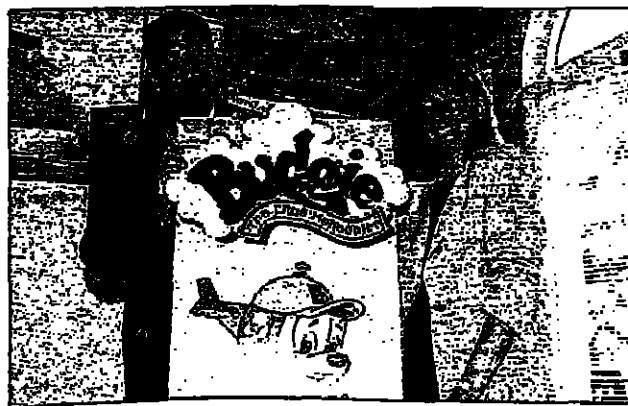
THE depth of troubles in the housing market was yesterday reflected in a poor set of figures for bank mortgage lending. Although gross loans rose to £1.81 billion in July, nearly 4 per cent up on June, the total was still below July last year. The British Bankers' Association said that July last year turned out to be the peak of lending for both banks and building societies. New mortgage approvals fell 14 per cent in July compared with June and were nearly 11 per cent down on July last year.

Ulster carpet jobs to go

RICHARDS, the Aberdeen-based textile manufacturer, is to close its carpet manufacturing operations in Northern Ireland with the loss of about 175 jobs. The decision to shut the plant follows a review of the group's carpet businesses announced in May. The group's tufted carpet manufacturing operations have been badly hit by an intense and prolonged price war as Shaw and Beaulieu, the world's two largest carpet manufacturers, fight it out for market shares in the UK.

Globetrotting Budgie wakes up Sleepy Kids

By JON ASHWORTH



Martin Powell and Vivien Schragger-Powell, managing director

IF ONLY Pablo Escobar were around to see it, *Sleepy Kids*, the children's animation and merchandising company, has sold the broadcasting rights for *Budgie The Little Helicopter* to that tolerant, fun-loving nation, Colombia.

The series, based on four books by the Duchess of York, will be screened in 19 new territories, under a lucrative deal announced yesterday, Martin Powell, chairman of *Sleepy Kids*, said further deals would follow.

Mr Powell said: "We believe that *Budgie* has worldwide sales potential since children of every nationality can enjoy the story line and appreciate the

characters." Westinghouse Broadcasting International, the company's television distributor, has sold the broadcasting rights to territories including Iceland, Denmark, Singapore, Netherlands, Hong Kong and New Zealand. The series makes its Australian television debut later this year.

Colombia, of course, is no stranger to helicopters. Señor Escobar, the former head of the Medellín drugs cartel shot dead last December, flew into his luxurious mountain-top prison in a canary yellow model. Villagers have grown used to the "thump-thump-thump" of US army helicopters searching for hidden coca plantations.

Mr Powell thinks *Budgie* will prove an

instant hit. "The great thing about animation is that it looks like it's made for a particular territory. The lip movements are not as specific, and it is easy to dub into a foreign language."

The *Budgie* rights have had a magical effect on *Sleepy Kids*, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in 1990. Pre-tax profits in the half-year to end-April rocketed from £3,000 to £263,000 on the back of *Budgie* deals around the world. The series has spawned *Budgie* merchandise including fridge magnets, Easter eggs, underwear, bubble bath, rugs, balloons and chocolate cake. The Duchess of York reputedly receives up to 20 per cent of profits from *Budgie* deals. The shares were unchanged at 54p.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"If it isn't broken, don't fix it," says Labour's agriculture spokesman about the controversial decision to deregulate Britain's successful milk industry. So why is the government going ahead with a move that industry sources say will mean thousands of job losses?

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

THE WOOLWICH: Donald Kirkham and Alan McIntock

Long enough together to pay off the mortgage

BUSINESS IN POWER

Robert Miller profiles the building society's senior team for whom the notion of mutuality is a way of life

Fine weather this Bank Holiday weekend will give Donald Kirkham, the chief executive of the Woolwich, a chance to indulge his passion for boating. Alan McIntock, the society's chairman, will be tending his cherished garden. But both men also have sound financial reasons for hoping for sunny weather.

As the leaders of Britain's third-largest society with assets of £26 billion, Kirkham and McIntock will be anxiously looking for the elusive recovery in the housing market. As Kirkham puts it: "The market seems to be lagging behind other economic indicators generally. We hope that as family holidays end and people start returning home there will be a pick-up in activity. A Bank Holiday offers an extra chance to look at houses."

McIntock adds: "We definitely need more volume. Since the cost of fixed-rate mortgages went up earlier this year, turnover has slowed down. But, for the moment, we are not too unhappy. The last thing we want is a runaway housing market."

The relationship between many chairmen and chief executives is transient and purely business oriented. That is clearly not the case with Kirkham, 58, and McIntock, 69, who have known each other for 25 years, since McIntock joined the Woolwich board. Kirkham was then the business production manager.

McIntock, whose grandfather Thomson McIntock founded the accountancy firm that now trades as KPMG Peat Marwick, recalls his introduction: "When I joined the board, I was taken aside by one of my predecessors and told 'We must keep an eye on young Kirkham', and I have. We are now the oldest partnership in the building societies game."

While Kirkham is a Woolwich

man through and through, albeit with some outside interests, McIntock has held a great number of other directorships. He has been involved with other financial institutions, including Govett's Strategic and Atlantic investment trusts, National Westminster Bank, M&G and Ecclesiastical Insurance.

But the two men have more in common than business interests and a "shared sense of humour". Both hold very deep religious beliefs. McIntock is a member of the Church of England's Central Board of Finance and a former vice-president of the Clergy Orphan Corporation. But he finds it difficult to articulate the reasons for his business involvement with the Church because it is such an intensely personal subject.

He was not unwilling to talk about the subject. But when he tried, he faltered after saying "It's one of those things which one feels...". Kirkham immediately stepped in and finished off his sentence. He did it not because he was trying to help out his friend who was

undergoing his first newspaper interview, but because he knew exactly what McIntock wanted to say but couldn't.

It is that sort of mutual understanding that has helped them to build the Woolwich into a force to be reckoned with. In Kirkham's words: "We have refined our communication with each other to the point where a raised eyebrow is enough."

John Wriglesworth, building societies analyst at UBS, the broker, comments: "What differentiates Kirkham and McIntock from some other, more high-profile, partnerships in the building society world is the absolute integrity and high-standing values they represent. Whilst they might be seen as old school in their approach to mutuality, they have a very modern



Alan McIntock, left, the Woolwich chairman, and Donald Kirkham, chief executive, are seen as having "a very modern approach to competitiveness and efficiency"

approach to competitiveness and efficiency."

Adrian Coles, the director general of the Building Societies Association, of which Kirkham is currently chairman, adds: "They have a very successful partnership based on a deep knowledge and understanding of the business. They are very much believers in mutuality and not maximising profits."

Earlier this month, the Woolwich reported pre-tax profits of £133.1 million for the first half of this year — a far cry from 1992, when the society had to make a bad-debt provision of £183 million. Kirkham says: "We have to ensure that our profits are only at the level required to maintain our capital adequacy. They must not be seen to be excessive. If they are, investors and

borrowers will ask, 'What do you want all this money for? And they would be right to.'

The organisation that Kirkham and McIntock head today is vastly different from the Woolwich Equitable Benefit Building and Investment Association founded in 1847. The society's inaugural meeting was held in the upstairs room of a tavern, the Castle Inn in Woolwich, and chaired by the inn's proprietor, Mr Tindler. The first mortgage application was for £200 to build two houses in New Charlton, in south east London. The founders realised they did not have enough money, so three directors had to dip into their own pockets and make up the £20 shortfall.

Today the Woolwich has 4.5 million savers and more than

550,000 borrowers. It has successful lending operations in France and Italy. Offshore operations in Guernsey have attracted more than £300 million in deposits. The society also has its own life assurance operation, surveying company and estate agency chain.

Among its biggest ventures in recent times, and a radical departure from generally recognised building society business, was the launch in January 1991 of its own unit trust arm. The single UK blue chip Woolwich Stockmarket fund, which is managed by Mercury Fund Managers, has attracted more than £300 million from around 60,000 investors. They can buy, sell or obtain valuations on

their units over the counter six days a week in any of the society's 500 branches around the country.

While much of the Woolwich's growth has been down to the diversification of the past few years, it has also grown through a series of mergers. These have included the Gateway society in 1988 and the Town & Country merger in 1992, really a rescue plan. One of the most unusual mergers in Woolwich's portfolio was with the little-known Grays society in 1979.

Kirkham explains: "It was quite exceptional. We thought it was a society with £14 million, which in theory it was, except that £7 million was missing. Building societies collectively decided that the Woolwich would take it over, but that we would all chip into a kitty. Our

share was £500,000. No investor lost a penny then and that is true of the building society movement as a whole throughout its history."

Future mergers are not ruled out. But, says McIntock: "The basic ingredients would have to be compatibility at all levels, including computer systems and the geographical location of the other society's branches."

McIntock retires next April and Kirkham follows at the end of 1995, both on grounds of age. This, says Gordon Willis, Kirkham's chauffeur for the past 12 years, is a great shame. "They work so well together. Why break up a really successful and happy partnership just because of their age? Still, I suppose that's the way of the world now. But it's all wrong." Quite.

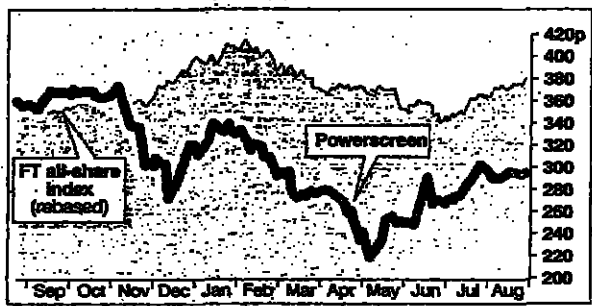
Eastern yields to gas pressure

SWIMMING upstream is no easy task and one best avoided by small fry. Electricity companies waded into the gas distribution business in the hope that savings in billing would turn the investment into a profitable diversification. Many dipped their toes in and several, including Eastern Electricity, are investing upstream in gas fields in the hope that vertical integration will strengthen the business.

The electricity distributors have made little money selling gas; competition has cut margins to shreds and some companies are now questioning the wisdom of their new venture. Going upstream is a further step into a high-risk business best left to the professionals. Eastern's purchase of a stake in the Johnston gas field misses the risk, given that it has already bought the gas, but the financial benefit is marginal, at best.

Eastern's advantage over other distributors is its move into electricity generation with one gas-fired power station running and another being built. The main problem for gas distributors is in juggling long-term take or pay contracts with producers alongside short-term agreements with end-users. But power generation gives Eastern a buyer in periods when retail customers are consuming less gas. It also provides opportunities for arbitrage between the price of electricity and that of gas.

Competition in the jour-



ney upstream comes from the formidable PowerGen, which already has a large stake in the Liverpool Bay gas field and is rumoured to be negotiating further deals with Monument Oil & Gas. Eastern's next step will be investment in a field where the gas has yet to be sold, pushing the electricity company further upstream and into deeper water.

Powerscreen

THERE are few companies preparing for a recovery in the construction industry as aggressively as Powerscreen. Yesterday's £17 million acquisition of Benford, the dumper truck manufacturer, brings its investment since the start of the year to £35 million. This includes two purchases in the US and two factory extensions adding 100,000 sq ft of space.

All this activity may seem a touch premature considering that any upturn in construction activity is still modest. But Powerscreen has the balance sheet to back its hunch that better times

are around the corner. The purchase of Benford uses up the last of the group's cash, but borrowings will still be minimal.

The price may look expensive, since Benford lost £1 million in the year to June. But it is more than covered by the company's net asset value, and Benford did turn into profit in the first six months of the year. If Powerscreen can improve margins there to match its own, Benford is capable of making £6 million on its £31 million turnover, which would imply an exit earnings multiple of just four.

Powerscreen's share price has not fully recovered from last December's bear raids. At 30p, they trade on a prospective p/e multiple in the low teens. That will prove cheap if the company's optimistic outlook of demand for its machinery comes true.

BP

THE sale of BP Nutrition is a benchmark for two reasons: it brings to a successful

close a less than happy chapter in BP's history. The oil company will continue to reduce debt by disposing of non-core businesses but few major assets are left to sell and yesterday's agreement brings the total raised since the beginning of the year to \$1 billion, on the edge of the \$1.5 billion target range.

The deal also marks a change in the fortunes of the venture capital business. The largest deal done since the beginning of the year, BP Nutrition has been sold into a soaring venture capital market. Last year, venture capitalists were in disposal mood, making hay while the stock market boomed. But the rising price of quoted equities made unquoted investments expensive and backers of buyouts became selective.

Weaker financial markets has put the venture market into investment mode and CINVEN has spent more in the first half of 1994 than its entire investment of £200 million in 1993.

For BP, nutrition — developed as a curious sideline to experiments in foods derived from hydrocarbons — became an expensive distraction at a time when cash was desperately needed elsewhere in the business. The company has reduced debt to more manageable levels, but with the company having installed better financial and working capital disciplines, no one will be surprised to see the borrowing level fall further still.

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Is your home blighted?

Liz Dolan looks at the pitfalls that lie in wait for the unsuspecting homebuyer or seller

The August Bank Holiday traditionally marks the start of the autumn homebuying season. In spite of frantic efforts by estate agents and mortgage lenders, all the signs point to a continuation in the painfully slow recovery that has confounded observers since the recession first began to loosen its grip.

Those brave souls who are neither deterred by fears of unemployment nor helplessly trapped by negative equity will be able to reap the benefits of static house prices and generous offers from desperate lenders. But, even in the most attractive of markets, hidden dangers lurk for the unsuspecting buyer and seller.

The routine search by the buyer's solicitor will not necessarily uncover plans to build a six-lane motorway through the property. An encouraging report by the surveyor may not mention the badger's sett that will later foil plans to extend the kitchen, nor the scenic brook that floods the garden every time there is a heavy fall of rain.

As demonstrated by the battle by Dolly Watson, 93, to prevent bulldozers razing her home to the ground to make way for the new M11 link road in east London, the Department of Transport (DoT) has scant regard for the needs



Bryan: flat sale fell through of individual householders. So what pitfalls lie in wait for the unwary?

When Judy Bryan put her flat on the market, she found a buyer in no time. Then, on the day contracts were due to be exchanged, the buyer pulled out. His solicitor had discovered the existence of plans to build a new road through Mrs Bryan's part of southwest London. Her flat was in the path of one of the routes under consideration. No decisions had been made, but the uncertainty was enough to prevent any possibility of a sale. Mrs Bryan says: "The search had been carried out with no

problems. Everything looked fine until the solicitor made that call. I was completely devastated."

In the event, the threat was lifted a year later, and Mrs Bryan was able to sell. But, had the plans for the road gone ahead, a compulsory purchase order would have been served on her flat, which would then have been demolished.

Under the terms of the Land Compensation Act, homeowners in this situation receive an offer based on what the property would have been worth had the road not been built. This is decided by the district valuer, who is employed by the Valuation Office, a government agency. If the householder disagrees with the valuation, he or she is given leave to appeal to the Lands Tribunal. If the appeal delays the development, those who have agreed to the initial valuation are unlikely to secure a better offer if house prices rise.

Those whose homes are not to be knocked down can claim compensation for inconvenience, such as dirt or noise, up to six years after the road has been built. Alternatively, they may be offered double glazing or other forms of protection. Homeowners who are subsequently unable to sell their property may be able to persuade the DoT to buy it, though this is not guaranteed.



Demonstrators do not want Clarendon Road, where Dolly Watson lives, razed to the ground to make way for the M11 link road in east London

ACCORDING to Alan Patten, of Harbottle and Lewis, a London firm of solicitors: "A search is, in practice, extremely limited in its usefulness. To find out much of the information you really need before buying your new home, you have to ask altogether different questions than those on the official search form." Solicitors do not have to ask additional questions, although a good one will, especially if the client voices specific concerns. Local solicitors are best placed to pick up rumours on the grapevine, especially in rural communities. "But you can only go so far in avoiding dangers," Mr Patten admits. "There are dotted

lines on planning maps all over the country where roads might be built at some stage."

The sensible purchaser will carry out supplementary detective work and check the possible existence of current and future hazards. These may be as simple as trees that, in summer, obscure the existence of a local eyesore that comes into view only when the leaves have fallen in autumn. Solicitors also get copies of the deeds and should point out restrictive covenants. Some forbid owners to hang out washing, for example, or ban satellite dishes, or do not allow boats or caravans to be parked in front of the house.

IF THE flat you want to buy has 70 years or less of its lease to run, you will almost certainly not be able to get a mortgage unless your seller pays to extend the lease (Antony Barnett writes).

Before the Leasehold Reform Act was implemented last November, leaseholders could only get an extension on a flat or maisonette with the landlord's consent. The landlord could charge what he liked for the renewal. Now tenants have the right to extend their lease by 90 years, plus the existing term. You must have occupied the flat or maisonette as a main home for at least three years and be on a

"long" lease, first granted for more than 21 years. Leaseholders must also be paying a "low" ground rent. But few leaseholders have put the new law to the test because of the qualifying requirements. It is also unclear how much the process will cost.

The Leasehold Valuation Tribunal, created under the Act to settle disputes between tenants and landlords, decided its first case this month. Two flatowners won the right to a 90-year extension to their 79-year lease for £1,775. The Department of the Environment runs a helpline called the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service on 071-495 3116.

ONLY one in five buyers ever bothers to employ a surveyor. The rest are running an unnecessary risk, says Adrian Britton, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

A good surveyor, preferably one who knows the area well, can save purchasers from numerous headaches later on. Apart from obvious hazards, such as hidden structural defects, they might alert clients to more obscure problems. These could be anything from the hitherto unsuspected absence of mains drainage to a plague of rats.

Surveyors should also warn buyers if there is a risk of radon. This carcinogenic substance occurs naturally in certain parts of the country. The National Radiological Protection Board on 0235 831600 or the Building Research Establishment's Radon Hotline 0923 664707 can supply details.

SOME local planning authorities are taking advice on whether they have to continue protecting all areas at risk from flooding. Some have plumped for selective protection from an eroding coastline, leaving certain parts to crumble undisturbed. It is important to ensure that the home you are intending to buy is not in an unprotected area.

Under the Environment Protection Act, each local au-

thority was required to establish a register of contaminated land, plus details of whether, and to what extent, clean-up operations have been carried out. The Government has since shelved the requirement. Homebuyers should check out previous occupants of the site, such as manufacturers of noxious substances, gasworks and rubbish tips. Local authority records and old maps are useful sources of information.

AN INCREASING number of people are living at close quarters with protected species that cannot be removed, let alone destroyed, just because they are an inconvenience to householders. Badgers in the foundations, great crested newts in the pond and bats in the attic all have squatters' rights.

But, says English Nature, there is always something that can be done if they are causing a nuisance. Enthusiasts, such as local badger and bat groups, are good sources of advice, as is English Nature, at Northminster House, Northminster, Peterborough, PE1 1UA. Telephone: 0733 340345.

Weekend Money is edited by Sara McConnell

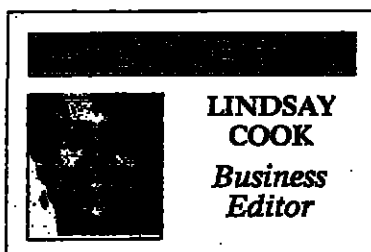
Guardian goes astray

The policyholders of Guardian Royal Exchange, or Guardian as it now prefers to be called by its customers, must be a tad concerned at the £417 million loss it incurred on its investments in the first six months of the year.

Those paying much higher premiums for their household insurance might wonder if the hefty payments have been used wisely. They might ponder the wisdom of paying 15 per cent more if it is gambled away with poor investments.

But they must applaud Guardian for adopting a European directive before compulsion, and revealing its unrealised and realised investment gains or losses in its reported profits, or, as it turns out in this case, pre-tax loss. This information, after all, will be a lot more use to potential endowment and pension policyholders of the company than the regularly published with-profits tables that can so easily be manipulated. With so much riding on the tables, it is not uncommon for companies to be more generous with their terminal bonuses than their annual ones, as it can give them a leg up the table at lower cost. No such help can be given to the all too visible above-line investment losses at Guardian. Of course, actuaries will deny vehemently any manipulation of their performance and claim that prudence guides their decisions.

Those planning to pay off their mortgage debt with a Guardian policy may already have been called upon to increase their payments. The £417 million loss can hardly be reassuring to



LINDSAY COOK
Business Editor

them. It is not surprising that the Nationwide Building Society decided to part company with Guardian and set up its own insurance company.

Guardian reckons it did pretty well to limit its losses. Amateur investors would be devastated if their portfolios were so unbalanced that losses on gilts were not compensated for by other investments.

Too much cannot be read into one six-month period, but it will be revealing when all the companies follow Guardian's example. The loss, after all, was equal to the total loss by the Pru over several years on its unwise foray into estate agency.

Who is right?

For years, borrowers have unquestioningly forked out large sums of money for mortgage indemnity insurance. Unless they pay for this cover, they cannot borrow more than 75 per cent of the value of the property they want to buy. If they ask what it is for, they are told it will pay out to the lender if they default on the debt and the lender is forced to sell the home for less than the

loan. Borrowers don't get any benefit from the policy they have to pay for. Unfair, but that's how it is.

Or is it? Not according to Union Finance, a small company in Southend. It claims a loophole in the wording of some policies means the borrower, not the lender, benefits. The resulting payout from the policy will be enough to free people trapped by negative equity. What is more, because it is the borrower's policy, the insurance company cannot pursue the defaulting borrower later. Thousands of desperate borrowers have been jamming Union Finance's switchboard to find out how they can escape from their debt.

But lenders say it is not this easy. They argue first, that the mortgage indemnity policy covers the lender not the borrower; secondly, that even if Union Finance is right, borrowers will still have broken their mortgage contract and will be blacklisted; and thirdly, borrowers can be pursued for outstanding debts for up to 12 years.

It seems from this that borrowers going ahead with Union Finance are taking a big risk. Defaulters will be blacklisted and in debt for years to come. But who is right? Borrowers do not know. They are not even allowed to see the mortgage indemnity policy they have paid for on the ground that it is a contract between lender and insurer, not between lender and borrower.

It is about time insurers stopped being so smug. Some of their policy wordings should be challenged and scrutinised by the courts. Then everyone would know where they stood.

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**FREE
GUIDE**

Pensions are a priority when children have left home, says **Damian Reece** in his series on where to invest when

When the income peaks...

Many parents are at their most affluent in the years leading up to retirement, because their incomes often peak at this stage when children have left home and are independent.

Their spending power makes them a prime target for insurance companies, but, with retirement looming, people should be especially careful about advice they take on financial matters. They should review pension arrangements, outstanding mortgages, the suitability of investments and savings, and their tax affairs, preferably with the help of an accountant, a solicitor, or a reputable independent financial adviser. People may prefer paying a fee for professional advice rather than using an adviser who earns commission.

Angus Jones, a financial planning consultant with Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, says: "Try to build up a strategy or plan. Ask yourself what you're trying to achieve. Think ahead and consider how your circumstances may change after retirement and start planning for that now."

Part or all of a mortgage should be paid off before

retirement. Selling a house and buying a smaller one can create a valuable lump sum. Inheritance and gifts from ageing parents can prove useful additions to capital.

Wills may have updating because they have generally been drawn up with the needs of young children in mind. People should also now be thinking about long-term care insurance. Roderic Rensson, an accountant with Robson Rhodes, says: "This cover, taken out now, will pay for nursing home fees in later life when you're much older."

At this stage, life insurance is likely to become less important. But straightforward term assurance can cover any unforeseen inheritance tax bill arising from a large gift (see taxation).

If you received a gift and the donor died less than seven years after making it, you would be liable for an inheritance tax bill.

If you have a very large estate, you will probably not be able to offset tax totally through making gifts or using exemptions. You could take out a whole-of-life policy, which should produce a large enough payout on death to cover your inheritance tax bill.



Frank Milton, who plans to boost his pension, with Mary his wife, and their children

When Frank Milton, 50, decided to set up his own printing company seven years ago, he was determined not to make the same mistakes he had seen other entrepreneurs make.

"I've seen too many small companies collapse over the years because of cash-flow problems or directors taking too much out of a company for their own pension funds," he says.

His company, Network Press, in Mitcham, southwest London, has plenty of cash in the bank and only in the next few years will he begin to use some of the value in his company to fund an executive pension plan.

For now he is happy with a £150 per month personal pension with Prudential and long-

term investments in Abbey Life property bonds, which have returned about 7.7 per cent per year after charges and basic rate tax.

He has tried to avoid insurance salesmen in the past, but when he takes advice in future he will use an independent adviser. "I would only talk to people that I know and that have been good to me," he says.

He and his wife, Mary, have two grown-up children, Dean and Tracy. Both Mr and Mrs Milton are covered by a medical insurance policy with the Bristol Contributory Welfare Association. Their mortgage will be repaid in 15 years with a Prudential endowment and they have life assurance to cover the loan and pay for future funeral expenses.

SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

YOU should keep your portfolio of investments balanced and flexible as you get nearer retirement, so avoid getting locked in to long-term endowment policies at this stage.

Angus Jones, of Capel-Cure Myers, says: "You have to think ahead. It is an important area because investments will form part of your income in retirement, apart from your pension."

If you think you will need extra income in retirement, you could build up a holding in gilts, which pay interest at a fixed rate. However, if you are going to be a higher-rate taxpayer in retirement, you should look for gilts with more of a capital return when you redeem them so that you avoid paying too much income tax and instead use up your £5,800 capital gains tax allowance.

If you want to build up your capital, you should build up holdings in shares, perhaps by switching long-term building society deposits into unit trusts or investment trusts.

Make sure you are not paying more tax than you need to, by transferring investments into the name of your spouse, if they are paying tax at a lower rate than you. Income from these investments will then be taxed at the lower rate. You should use up personal equity plan and tax exempt special savings scheme allowances as you pay no tax on income or capital gains from these.

Certain offshore funds will allow you to roll up income tax free while the investment remains offshore. You have to pay tax on the money when you repatriate it to the UK, but if you wait until you are retired, semi-retired or paying tax at a lower rate, the income will be taxed at that rate.

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*Source: Micropal offer to bid with gross income reinvested since launch to 22/08/94. UK Enterprise Fund from 01/08/88 and from 01/08/89 +102%, 17116; Smaller Companies Fund from 01/06/79 and from 01/08/89 +14.4%, 30/52; Income and UK Equity Funds from 03/01/72 (the earliest date for which Micropal figures are available) and from 01/08/89 +68.3%, 8/94 and +74.1%, 1/80 respectively.

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MANY people start to worry about inheritance tax (IHT) as retirement looms. Each spouse can leave up to £150,000 before the 40 per cent tax is levied and all transfers between spouses are exempt. Gifts made to grown-up children, for example, are free of IHT if the donor survives seven years. Some people place gifts in trust for the young.

But advisers sound a note of caution. Roderic Rensson, of Robson Rhodes, says: "Couples have been known to give too much away and a widow or widower is often left short in old age with no obligation on the part of younger beneficiaries to help out." Everyone has

a £3,000 IHT personal allowance that can be carried forward one year. You can give up to £5,000 free of IHT to a son or daughter getting married. Gifts to charities, political parties and national institutions also escape. Once allowances are used up, people can buy insurance to pay for an IHT bill.

PENSIONS

GET an up-to-date valuation of your pension fund from your pensions department at work or, if you have a personal pension, your financial adviser. Compare the pension your present fund would give you on retirement with the one you could get if you made the maximum contributions. If there is a big difference, it is not too late to put more into your fund.

John Cole, managing director of Berry Birch & Noble, an independent financial adviser, says: "If someone has a personal pension there may well be scope for contributing to an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme."

You could also consider asking your employer to pay you less take-home pay and put more into the fund. This is salary sacrifice. People with their own schemes can make use of unused pension tax relief from the past six years. Do not forget frozen benefits in a previous employer's pension fund. These can be moved into a personal pension or left alone. Your adviser will work out which is best.

To make the pension fund more secure, Angus Jones, of Capel-Cure Myers, advises selling equity-based holdings in the fund over the five years before retirement to reduce risk.

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Pressure on C&G payout plan grows

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society customers are this week being urged to petition the society to hold a special meeting to discuss alternatives to Lloyds Bank's £1.8 billion bid.

The call comes from C&G Alternatives, a pressure group set up after the takeover bid was first announced in April. The group has received more than 500 letters from customers angry at the way Cheltenham & Gloucester is proposing to divide up the payment from Lloyds. Many of them are borrowers or have had savings in share accounts for less than two years, so will no longer qualify for a payout under revised proposals published two weeks ago. Peter Nicholson, one of the three founders of C&G Alternatives,

An action group calls on shareholders to press for a special meeting to discuss alternatives to the Lloyds plan. Sara McConnell reports

said the group wants to explore the option of a flotation rather than a takeover. If a takeover is the best option, it wants to make sure that the Lloyds bid offers fair value for money and that the proceeds are shared equitably between members. Cheltenham & Gloucester has to arrange a special meeting if 100 qualifying members put their names to proposals they want discussed. To qualify, they have to have had at least £100 in a share

account for two years. Each has to pay a £10 deposit. At least 125 people have to attend the meeting, which is at a time and place set by the society.

Such a meeting would cost the society about £500,000 to hold. It has to mail all its members, print voting forms and find a venue. It said: "The board has spent 15 months reviewing all the options. This was a fundamental review of our future and we are absolutely sure this is the best way

forward." It pointed out that if members qualified to sign a special meeting petition, they also qualified for a payout under the Lloyds bid.

C&G Alternatives' call for a meeting is supported by Anthony Verdin, a C&G borrower who has received 150 letters from customers after offering to set up another protest group. Mr Verdin believes the payout should be distributed to all savers and borrowers in proportion to the amount of loan or investment they hold and the length of time they have held it.

Meanwhile, there is still widespread confusion and anger among customers who feel cheated out of a bonus. We asked C&G to reply to the main points raised in some of the many letters received by Weekend Money.



Incommunicado: The Cheltenham & Gloucester has been refusing to reply to detailed questions about the Lloyds £1.8 billion takeover bid. But a new helpline may give customers some of the information they have been seeking

Q Why are we being penalised for taking C&G's advice last year?

C&G wrote to depositors in the London Deposit Account in May 1993, telling them it was closing the LDA to new investors. It drew attention to a new share account, Instant 7, which would pay better rates to investors with less than £10,000. Many of you switched. Now, unless you qualify on another account, you will get nothing, because you have not been in Instant 7 for two years. If you had left more than £100 of your savings in LDA you would have got £500 plus 13 per cent of the balance. Mr C.E. Gudgeon, of Poole, Dorset, objects.

"C&G advised — or at least encouraged — investors with London Deposit Accounts to take this action, as I did, and now I forfeit my claim to nearly £5,000 bonus." C&G replies: "If we don't give customers information about new accounts, we are in trouble with the building societies ombudsman. We tell our customers about new accounts, but we don't advise them about investment. We would never have been able to revise our plan to satisfy 100 per cent of our customers. We went through unbroken variations, trying to satisfy the law and the judgment. We tried to include as many people as possible."

Q Why can't C&G wait until all voting investors at the time of the original announcement have been members two years and qualify?

Colin Schofield, of Cheltenham, writes: "Subsequent to the High Court ruling, an arbitrary extension date was selected, which excluded about 10 per cent of voting shareholders. If the timescale was extended marginally, then all qualifying shareholders could be offered an incentive to vote for the merger."

C&G replies: "We can't wait for ever. People who do fit the plan will already wait 17 months because of the delay. We are including an extra year's worth of investors [under the revised proposals]. If we wait 12 more months, some people will have died, waiting for a relative minority who wish to have the plan revised at the cost of compromise."

Q Why are women losing out because they are often the second named on joint accounts?

Mrs Pauline Baker, of Old Windsor, Berkshire, writes: "My husband and I opened a London Savings Account in 1989, in our joint names. In April 1993, in order to maximise my personal tax allowance, we decided to hold our investment in my name only. I now find I do not qualify for a cash payment because my husband was the first named on our joint account for the period to April 22, 1993, the date on which I became the sole investor. I am both angry and disgusted."

C&G replies: "It is the law that it is only the first named person on a joint account who 'enjoys' membership rights. It is the judgment that the member only qualifies after two years. People can set up joint accounts with up to four names in any order they like."

Q Why aren't depositors subject to the two-year rule?

Mrs H. Waddams, of Totnes, Devon, writes: "I opened a share account on July 1, 1993, and will receive nothing, while a depositor with an account open on March 31, 1994, with £100 or more will get a minimum of £500. This is a complete nonsense. Depositors are not part-owners, so why should they receive a share of the sale price?" C&G replies: "This does appear to be a curious anomaly. But the judgment says that cash payments can only be made to members of more than two years' standing. Depositors are not members. In the beginning, we were offering a flat £500 payout to all voting members."

Q Why are we told branch staff cannot say anything for 'legal reasons'?

Mr J.E. Humphrey, of Worthing, West Sussex, was angry at the reply he received from Andrew Longhurst, the society's chief executive, when he queried the C&G's instruction not to ask questions. He wrote to Mr Longhurst: "This will not do and I write to ask how the particular date, December 31, 1992, came to be a deadline."

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Barclays turns on the charm for customers

Barclays has finally admitted that many of its seven million personal customers have been getting a raw deal. Now the bank has launched a major charm offensive aimed at improving its image with its long-suffering customers and winning new business from others.

The Barclays National Complaints Initiative has been set up by order of the bank's board and a senior executive, Chris Lendrum, deputy managing director of UK banking services, has been charged with the mission of resolving complaints within 24 hours wherever possible.

The project has been in the planning stage for a year and has cost more than £2 million to set up. Last year, the bank's central complaints unit received 9,000 complaints. But Mr Lendrum admits: "That is only the tip of the iceberg."

From now on:

■ Every one of Barclays's 2,100 branches will have its performance monitored against a new service performance index. It will be judged on how it

handles account transactions, interest rates, staff, commissions and financial services.

■ Customers can complain about more than 100 aspects of the bank's service from bank policy to having no named point of contact.

■ All complaint forms that customers complete will be logged at a central base and monitored for progress and speedy resolution.

■ No official compensation payments for mistakes will be made, but local branch managers have discretion to make individual awards where appropriate.

■ Up to 750,000 small business customers of the bank will be covered by the complaints initiative.

■ Care calls will be made to customers if necessary. Alistair Darling, Labour's City affairs spokesman, welcomed the Barclays initiative, but said that his party still wanted to see the banking ombudsman given more powers to enforce the code of banking practice.

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*Subject to Inland Revenue limitations. Please refer to Perpetual's PEP brochure for more details. All statistics are to 31st August 1994 and are on an offer-to-bid basis with gross income reinvested (source: Microcap). Over the last five years the percentage rise of the funds featured in the charts is as follows: UK Growth Fund 74%, European Growth Fund 67%, American Growth Fund 119%, Far Eastern Growth Fund 138%, and 9 out of 10 Perpetual Funds are in the top 25% of their respective sectors. Current tax levels and reliefs are liable to change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be due to exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

BRIEFINGS

Woolwich customers can now deal a mortgage from Woolwich Direct. Borrowers with a good credit record and a deposit of at least 20 per cent get a mortgage, plus an interest-only quote, in five minutes. They then receive an information pack and partly completed application form, to be returned with valuation fee, proof of income and a lender's reference. A formal offer is then made after credit and fraud checks. Meanwhile, on the savings front, the Woolwich is boosting interest rates

on current accounts and cutting overdraft rates. Account holders get 2.63 per cent (up from 0.863 per cent) net on £500-£4,999, rising in bands to 3.83 per cent net (3 per cent). The rate for an authorised overdraft has been reduced from 9.8 per cent to 9.5 per cent. There is no monthly fee.

■ Nova IV, the Newcastle Building Society's new limited issue four-year savings bond, guarantees to pay 6.38 per cent net on £2,000-£30,000. The monthly income rate, available

on balances of £5,000 plus, is 6.19 per cent net. Instant access carries a six-month interest-rate penalty. Available from branches or on 091-261 6622.

■ Taking advantage of the M-reg car sales boom, Abbey National has extended its cheap loans offer to September 30. Interest rates charged on loans between £500 and £15,000 have been reduced to between 16.4 per cent and 14.8 per cent, compared with 20.4 per cent to 16.4 per cent.

The best-paying accounts tend to open for business only briefly, says Margaret Dibben

Fortune favours the fast



Blink and you miss it — the best rates race past and disappear before you can take advantage of them

If an interest rate catches your eye as looking better than the others, act quickly. Delay for even a week, and the account offering it may well have been withdrawn.

Building societies are trying, with some success, to tempt back savers disaffected by several years of low interest rates. In many cases, bonds with a guaranteed fixed rate over one, three or five years are paying some of the best rates. Some of these are "stepped" or "escalator" bonds, whose rates rise every year.

Guaranteed income bonds and guaranteed equity bonds from insurance companies, banks and building societies

may also offer good fixed rates for up to five years (although guaranteed equity bonds can be risky).

According to *Money Facts*, the specialist magazine, five-year escalator bonds are the ones that tend to come and go. When building societies can get hold of a tranche of money on the money markets at a fixed price, they sell the investment as bonds at a fixed rate until all the money has been taken up and then withdrawing the account.

The Yorkshire Building Society said: "We use this type of product tactically to raise retail funds for our mortgage products. They are available until we reach a predetermined target. That figure is set internally, but not disclosed, because it is flexible, and exactly when a product is withdrawn depends on what the competition is offering."

A Yorkshire spokesman said: "We had a three-year fixed-rate bond paying 8.5 per cent gross, which was available from June 1 to July 27, longer than we had planned. Because it was going so well, we decided to double the amount of money available."

The current bond has been available since July 29, but I cannot say when it will be withdrawn. If one of our competitors came out with a better-paying bond, our inflow would drop dramatically."

Paul Knight, general manager of the Cheshire Building

Society, says: "A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to offer a three-year investment at 8 per cent gross. We could not have done it a fortnight earlier." It was launched on August 1 and filled within a week; the society renegotiated a deal to keep it available for a few weeks longer. The minimum investment is £5,000.

Sometimes a closing date is set at the outset. The Royal Bank of Scotland's guaranteed equity investment plan will be available until September 9, unless it runs out of money before then. Others, including National Savings accounts, can be closed with only a few hours' notice or even overnight.

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Quoting reference Witan-5

LIMITED EDITION ACCOUNTS									
Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate	Interest					
Britannia BS 0538 391090	Fixed Rate Bond	1.659	£2,000	8.25%*F	Yr				
NBP BS 0538 391090	Fixed Term	5 year	£100	7.00%*F	Yr				
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (NET)									
Euroclear 071 454 0105	5 year	£2,000	7.50%*F	Yr					
Equity Fund 0444 426721	5 year	£1,000	7.30%*F	Yr					
ESCALATOR BONDS - fixed-term with rates guaranteed to the end of each year									
Account	Min	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Notes
W Broom BS 021 607 2615	£1K	7.50	7.75	8.25	8.25	11.50	11.50	11.50	Yrly ends 30 Sept
W Broom BS 0600 400090	£1K	7.10	7.60	8.10	8.10	9.50	11.35	11.35	Yrly ends 30 Sept

F-Rate Fixed (all other rates are Variable) N-Net rate. All rates subject to change without notice. Check all rates before investing. Source: Money Facts

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INTEREST RATES

	Gross rate	Net rate after 25% tax	Net rate after 40% tax	Minimum investment	Notes	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	4.08	3.06	2.44	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-428 1587
	4.08	3.04	2.43	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-428 1587
	4.08	3.04	2.43	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
	4.08	3.04	2.43	10,000-no max	3 mth	Local Branch
	4.08	3.04	2.43	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 528555
	4.08	3.04	2.43	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 528555
	4.08	3.04	2.43	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-728 1000
	4.08	3.04	2.43	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-728 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MNC	2.82	2.82	2.13	2,500+	none	091-442 7777
Barclays Prime	1.51	1.51	1.21	1,000+	none	051 2548288
Co-operative Current	0.19	0.19	0.15	none	none	071 826 8543
Citibank	3.38	3.38	2.90	2,000+	none	0200 505894
Lloyds HICA	0.39	0.39	0.30	2,000+	none	0772 432572
Midland	1.12	1.12	0.80	2,000+	none	0742 528555
Albion National	0.75	0.75	0.60	1,000+	none	Local Branch
Royal Bank of Scotland	1.13	1.13	0.80	2,000+	none	051-558 8555
TSB Bank	0.75	0.75	0.60	2,000+	none	071-600 8020
First Choice	0.75	0.75	0.60	2,000+	none	071-600 8020

BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share	1.00	0.75	0.50	50+	none	
Best buy - largest socs:						
Nottingham	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	
Stratford & Stratford	8.50	4.75	3.78	25,000 min	Fixed	

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Income Bond	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
7th Index Linked	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
4th Index Linked	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Yearly Plan	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Children's Bond	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Gift Aid	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Capital Bond	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
1st Option Bond	3.25	2.44	1.35	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
AG Life	5.15	5.15	4.38	50,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from Chase de Vere
General Portfolio	5.10	5.10	4.19	50,000 min	2 yrs	Figures from Chase de Vere
Laurel Life	5.10	5.10	4.19	50,000 min	3 yrs	Figures from Chase de Vere
Prudential Life	5.10	5.10	4.19	50,000 min	3 yrs	Figures from Chase de Vere
Barclay Life	5.10	5.10	4.19	50,000 min	3 yrs	Figures from Chase de Vere

RATES						
RPI (July 95-99)	+2.25%					
Bank Base Rate	5.25%					
Personal Loan	25%					
Credit Card	25-27%					

TESSA						
Market Harbor	7.50	32,225.00	50 day low/high	55,000	0858 423944	
Market Harbor	7.50	32,225.00	50 day low/high	55,000	0858 423944	
Market Harbor	7.50	32,225.00	50 day low/high	55,000	0858 423944	
Market Harbor	7.50	32,225.00	50 day low/high	55,000	0858 423944	
Market Harbor	7.50	32,225.00	50 day low/high	55,000	0858 423944	

* 1.25% for balances below £500. For £700 or more, interest rates for withdrawals of £100 or less. * Additional charges up to £50.00 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured bonds of interest. * 0.25% net bonus for amounts over £500. * Discounted over the term.

Compiled by JOANNA PETERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Nottingham	1.50%	£125-£150k	50%	Road to 1.55%
Stratford & Stratford	2.40%	£20k-£150k	50%	Discounted by 5.25% to 1.10.55
Stratford & Stratford	2.40%	£100k	50%	Discounted by 5.25% to 1.7.55
BANKS				
Albion National	2.95%	to £120k	75%	Discounted by 4.75% to 30.11.95
OTHER				
Albion National	2.95%	to £120k	75%	Discounted by 4.75% to 30.11.95

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Bank statements on demand — but the wrong ones

From Mr R. H. Edwards
Sir, I wonder how many Barclays Bank customers have had a similar experience as myself with regards to bank statements.

On August 9, I requested, via the ATM at a Chester branch, a statement of my current account, which I received on August 12. Included with my statement was that of another customer. The account is held at the same branch as myself, but only the

customer's name and account number appeared thereon — no address.

This is the second occasion within six months that I have had folded inside my statement that of another customer — on this occasion — well known to me. I am now asking the question: "When will my statements be forwarded to another customer at the same branch?"

The deputy manager of the branch holding my account

informs me that the dispatch of statements is carried out at a central office in Manchester. I wonder if the Barclays Bank code of practice states that customers can rest assured others will not get to read their statements?

Apparently, some of the other bank companies also have the same problem in maintaining confidentiality.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. EDWARDS,
Cil Y Coed, Y Bala, Gwynedd.

Student with untold wealth

From Ms J. Richards
Sir, Last week, my penniless student daughter received a statement from National Westminster Bank thanking her for opening a deposit account in May in which there was now a substantial balance.

Since her account with that bank contains roughly £1.50, we were rather surprised.

On telephoning the National Westminster Bank the next day, I was greeted with incredulous disbelief and a promise to investigate and ring back.

When no call was received after four days, I called again. After holding on for some minutes, I was informed by a bored voice that there had "been a bit of a mix-up — two people with the same name".

I received no thanks for pointing out the error and would take a small wage that the other Anna Richards of Cambridge (whose money one presumes had been missing since May) received no apology. I must infer from this that whatever happened was clearly my daughter's fault.

Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER RICHARDS,
40a Paddock Street,
Soham,
Cambridgeshire.

Anyone with their £1.50 savings in a Nat West Bank has more money than sense



Uncaring attitude of loan company

From Mr Michael Possener
Sir, Margaret Dibben did well to expose monopolistic abuses by the Student Loan Company (Weekend Money, August 20). Statements by the managing director indicate that he has little knowledge of what his company's paperwork says.

He is quoted as saying that students "have two months to claim a deferment". The printed letter states that they will be contacted "approximately four weeks" in advance. When the deferment application form arrives, it has to be returned in 14 days. His "two months" is actually only two weeks.

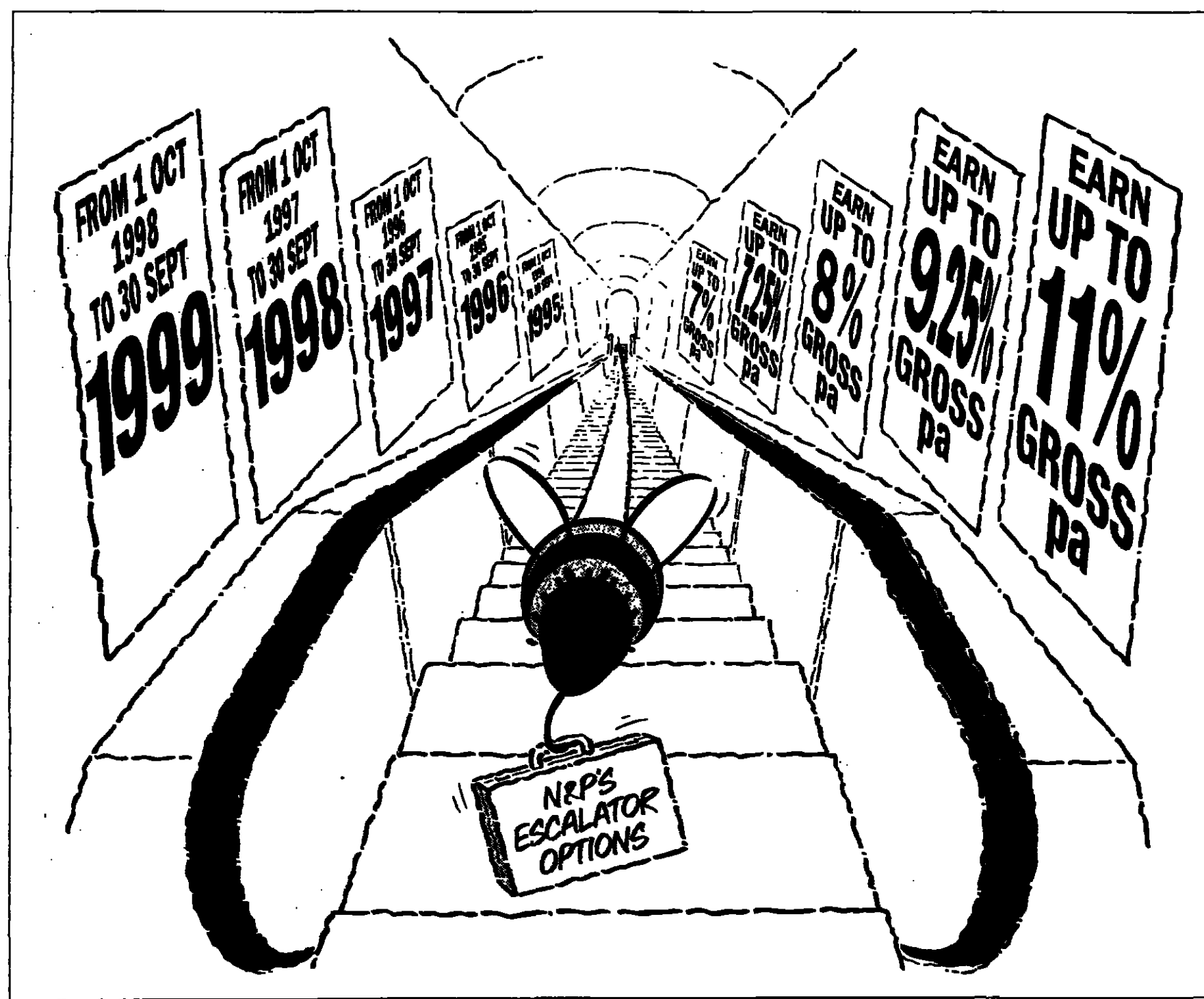
My daughter was abroad when her 14-days letter arrived.

I wrote to say that she qualified for deferment. The reply, rejecting my request for an extension of time, came from a department humorously called "Special Arrangements Section". A repayment was drawn under the insidious direct debit mandate.

The managing director is quoted as saying that a sum so deducted would be refunded. His Special Arrangements Section knows differently.

How is it possible that this company has so quickly adopted the banking ethic of contempt for the small customer? Is there an ombudsman to protect the debt-burdened graduate from this uncaring attitude? Yours faithfully,
M. POSSENER,
90 Shenley Hill,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.

GUARANTEED GROWTH IN SAVINGS RATES...



Minimum Balance	UNTIL 30 SEPT 95	FROM 1 OCT 95 TO 30 SEPT 96	FROM 1 OCT 96 TO 30 SEPT 97	FROM 1 OCT 97 TO 30 SEPT 98	FROM 1 OCT 98 TO 30 SEPT 99
£25,000+	7.00%	7.25%	8.00%	9.25%	11.00%
£10,000	6.75%	7.00%	7.75%	9.00%	10.50%
£500	6.50%	6.75%	7.50%	8.75%	10.00%

Annual rates of interest are gross pa. (Monthly Income interest rates are 0.35% gross pa lower than those for annual interest.)

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High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

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100	98	100	100	100	100	100

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

OILS, GAS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	98	100	100	100	100	100

Kong m

Judicious importing of high-quality players enhanced by right blend

Foreign bodies secure leading role

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AS WITH all things human, quality determines performance. Already the impact of Jürgen Klinsmann, Philippe Albert, Bryan Roy, Stefan Schwarz and Dan Petrescu has shown how judicious summer importing can grace British football.

But as any baker knows — and Klinsmann is the son of two — it is the blend that counts. He is one Tottenham Hotspur constituent: the Dumitrescu another: the Sheringham and Barnaby and Anderton yet more. The ingredients excite, and Klinsmann has travelled sufficiently to appreciate the key is the willingness of the team to adapt to him, to be led by him, to grow with him.

Similarly, Newcastle United's search for a totum in defence, a man around whom to build as solid a base as they have a rapacious attack, depends on integrating Albert. So far, so very good. This big, dark Belgian, as uprooted as a figure as Cantona, showed at Leicester on Sunday the inner calmness that will make others depend on him, the instinct

to stride forward and the timing to hit a 35-yard shot with all the panache of a Le Tissier.

Awesome. And though we have seen Albert vulnerable to quick forwards running straight at him (who is not?) he is now in a position to bring an unforeseen dividend — for he has a Belgian's knowledge of Newcastle's first Uefa Cup opponents, Antwerp.

Meanwhile, at the City Ground, Nottingham, on Monday, before our very eyes, Stan Collymore — a thundering, self-centred forward — was seen to respect and admire Roy. The Dutch winger has shown he intends to play with nothing like the restrictions of a winger's isolation or predictability.

He made his runs with immaculate balance and flowing pace, from central positions around the centre circle, and more than any player so far in the Premiership, he demonstrated the uncertainty of defenders in knowing when or how to tackle under the new Fifa strictures.

Having already given Not-



Roy: admired



Schwarz splendid buy

tingham Forest a 20-yard winner at Ipswich, he now became Bruce and Pallister.

Klinsmann will be tested against those defenders at White Hart Lane this afternoon. His three goals in two games are ample proof that the scope of English play holds no barrier to him. But against Everton on Wednesday it was clear just how much effort Sheringham and Barnaby are willing to give, how deep they will forage, how much they will sacrifice their own goalscoring potential for such

a partner. In Sheringham's case, with the captain's band on his arm, there is a willingness to try to shore up a Tottenham defence as frail as a Cuban raft.

So, are the foreigners perfect for our game? Not quite. The cramp that slowed Klinsmann on Wednesday, the lack of match fitness that curtails Dumitrescu's intuitive spurts, and the sore hamstring of Roy, all show the toll of English physical play. If we are to open the British mind, we must also condition foreign bodies.

It is no coincidence that three of the managers who have brought them here — Kevin Keegan, Trevor Francis, Osvaldo Ardiles — have played extensively abroad, and so appreciate the technical care that can rub off on their home-bred players.

It is like transplanting new marrow into bone. With care, consideration and luck it can work. Keegan believes it has already begun. At half-time in the opening Newcastle match, he spoke to Marc Hottiger, his new right back. Keegan suggested that however easily Hottiger felt he could coast, the English league demands that this swift player use any spare acceleration or lung power for the team effort.

"The thing about these lads [Albert and Hottiger]," Keegan enthused, "is the way they listen and try what you ask. It's so refreshing."

It should not be. English players with so much to learn in the technical sense ought to be working as much in the mind as foreigners are being asked to do in the body.

The prize for his two-way method is evident by the

example with which Cantona, fitter if not yet temperamentally tamed, illuminated Manchester United so that they overcame their 25-year phobia about the championship. Over in Germany, where Tony Woodcock was helped to overcome initial language barriers 15 years ago, he has graduated to a coach in the Bundesliga.

Football may be a simple, universal game, but its rewards are not always pecuniary. How interesting that, on Thursday morning, the Stock Exchange should respond to Klinsmann's goals by adding 10p a share to Tottenham Hotspur plc. That overnight cash injection raised the value of the club to £19.5 million, almost £2 million more, or the transfer fee Spurs paid to Monaco.

But it reveals that the City is as volatile as football. Can you imagine, for example, that shares in Glasgow Rangers, the new owners of Basile Roli and Brian Laudrup, have gone up after the club's elimination by AEK Athens in the preliminary round of the European Cup?

Man in black who has toned down his act

Russell Kempson talks to Graham Poll, the youngest Premiership referee, who makes his seasonal reappearance today

Young, gifted and in black. When Graham Poll steps out at Ewood Park today, to referee the FA Cup tie between Blackburn Rovers and Coventry City, he will seek no spotlight. All he craves is an invisible presence for 90 minutes, no red cards, perhaps a discreet thank-you and a safe 240-mile drive home. It was not always so.

Poll, youngest league referee at 27 and youngest Premiership referee at 30, led the brief pack of emerging officials. Moving at pace from a North Herts League non-entity to a Football League somebody was too hot to handle. Self-belief spilled into arrogance, respect for elders disappeared in a haze of opinion.

"When I was younger, when I'd just got onto the league line, I was a bit brash, a bit full of myself," Poll, 31, said. "I had to realise I was not that significant in the grand scheme of things but it was difficult. When I first got into the dressing-room, I had to remember it was the referee's dressing-room, not mine. It's a lesson you have to learn, a hard lesson."

In the twilight world of assessors and observers, Poll was noticed for the wrong reasons. The expected interview for referee status did not materialise, but after a year spent cooling and conforming, he notched another rung on the ladder.

The Premiership followed last season and, now, he is among the elite 22 who sympathise and scold for £300 a match. Only the coveted white badge of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, is left to planter. "I've no timetable on that but travelling abroad on football business has whetted my appetite," he said.

Poll has made six foreign trips, including a visit to Croatia for the European Cup tie between Hajduk Split and Legia Warsaw on Wednesday. He was reserve referee, not used. His passion, though, is the Premiership, a far cry from when, at 17 and during a parochial five-a-side tournament, he first assumed the role of master-in-charge.

Away from the whistle, Poll is field sales manager for a toiletries and fragrance company near Reading, Berkshire, where he lives with his wife, Julia, and their seven-month-old daughter, Gemma. Caffeinating the demands of family,

job and hobby requires skillful planning. Implementing Fifa's new rule interpretations is no less taxing. "We have some tough decisions to make but Fifa has given us a mandate and we have to carry that out," Poll said. "Referees don't want to send players off, but you have to be brave enough to stand up and be counted when it matters. All we're being told is to enforce some of the things we've been told to before but have failed to do."

"As soon as you blow for a challenge from behind, your next decision is will it be a yellow or red? Not whether it will be a card or not. The law now states a player must be cautioned. To me, it's a cop-out to say: 'I used common sense.'"

He already sees encouraging signs from the players and believes consistency among his peers is the key. However, when the novelty wears off, the angst may return. Unpopularity, though, is not a problem. "You want to be liked but you're never going to be because you're the referee," he said. "If you try to be popular, you may compromise some of your beliefs."

stop trying to be popular and you will become respected. "That's the balance." When Poll enters the Ewood arena today, for his first match of the season, he will wear traditional black to avoid a clash with Coventry's green away strip.

"When you're having a bad game, you have to dig deep," he said. "Unless you've got that something inside you to do that, you won't make it. I suppose fortune has smiled on me in my career — I can't have got to where I have at my age without a bit of luck — but there must be some judgement in there as well."

The present-day Poll is more new wave than new slick on the black, more sly sidler than ungracious upstart. His one regret is the over-embellishment of his youth, which ripples with some contemporaries. "They still see me as that loud bloke, that arrogant git," Poll said. "It just makes me want to say: 'Hang on, I've changed.'"



Poll: seeking respect

Leeds open doors to a wealth of opportunity

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

WHATEVER the rights and wrongs of the present debate on the free trade in footballers, few could look Phil Masinga or Lucas Radebe of Leeds United straight in the eyes and tell them that they have no place in the English game. Every word they speak, every move they make, is touched with an optimism far too precious to be dashed against the rock of old-fashioned protectionism advocated by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA). Radebe's smile alone could light up Leeds town hall.

The two South African internationals, both 25 and called up this week for an African Nations' Cup qualifying match in Madagascar next weekend, have no interest in the argument. They are too busy trying to cope with a bewildering new world, a jumble of new accents, new rules and new standards to worry too much about stale football politics. But doubtless they would see the irony in the notion that, after so many years of sporting isolation, they should be penalised and, in effect, isolated once more for not being good enough.

Masinga has already been baptised by fire, thrust into his full debut last Tuesday at centre forward against Arsenal and the meanness of defence in the FA Cup tie. He was still shaking his head in wonder two days later. But he survived, and Leeds won. "That was the toughest game I have ever

played in my life," he said. A far cry from the strolling football of the Mamelodi Sundowns, his former team, in the South African league.

"There, if you felt tired, you could walk around for a while. Here you run for the whole 90 minutes," he said. Yet it says much not just for Masinga's potential, but for his strength of character, that as tough a nut as Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, chose to pitch him in so deep. Masinga wants to come back for more, belying the image of Africans as all touch and no heart.

The long journey from Johannesburg to Elland Road began last May, when the Leeds chief scout, Geoff Sleight, followed up good reports on Radebe, a defender with the Kaiser Chiefs, by watching South Africa play Australia.

As luck would have it, Radebe was injured, but Masinga did play and looked good enough for Leeds to make some small change in their pocket while other clubs were checking the bank vaults. Masinga cost a mere £275,000, either the smartest buy of the season or the blindest gamble.

Though every black schoolboy in South Africa watches English football on the television and fantasises about joining in, the prospect had never seriously occurred to Masinga. Switzerland or Portugal, maybe, but never England. What has sustained the pair



Masinga, left, and Radebe share a common goal at Elland Road that some would seek to deny them

during their first full month in Leeds, living in club digs, has been the warmth of the reception from players and supporters. "Players like McAllister and Strachan are legends to us, but they have kept encouraging us all the time, so we must keep our heads up, not bow down," Masinga said.

In return, Wilkinson said, the two South Africans can give his side "a new dimension". In their backgrounds as well as their intuitive style of football. "They have grown up in the sort of environment that

players in this country were growing up in 60 or 70 years ago," Wilkinson said.

One of a family of 14, Radebe was brought up in Soweto amid hardships he took for granted and alongside troubles he now laughs off. He was too busy playing football to join in the riots, he says. He is still the main breadwinner for eight of his brothers and sisters.

Masinga's father was a clerk at the mines. His early football was played barefoot on the streets using a make-

shift ball and broomsticks for goalposts. "To you here, this seems a hard life. We're used to it, so it doesn't seem so bad," Radebe said. It does, though, give them a unique perspective on life in the fantasyland of Elland Road.

In South Africa, their status as well established internationals brought them a semblance of wealth — good food, a house, a car — but nothing compared to the riches they could earn now. The one frustration for Radebe is that he is still waiting to receive his

work permit. For Masinga, life will not be quite perfect until he has scored his first goal in the Premiership and imported a good supply of his beloved South African porridge.

He has already been allotted a theme tune by the Leeds faithful. Walzing Masinga. But he will know he has really made it when a different cry goes up. Ooh, Ash, Masinga. It might even blow across the Pennines to the door of the PFA headquarters in Manchester.

Newport find no place like home

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

NEWPORT AFC enjoyed an emotional homecoming before 2,475 spectators when they played Redditch United in a Beazer Homes League midland division match on Tuesday night at the town's new, £33 million, council-built Spytty Stadium.

The granting of a High Court injunction, pending a hearing for a restraint of trade action, enabled the club to return from exile in Gloucester. That had been forced by the Football Association of Wales (FAW) refusal to allow Newport to continue in the English non-league pyramid while playing in Wales.

As a club founded by supporters in the wake of the collapse of Newport County, Newport AFC had already proved its resilience. The team played at Moreton-in-Marsh when Somerton Park, County's home ground, failed to meet safety requirements and the FAW frowned upon their humble starting-point in the Hellenic League.

Wallace Brown, the club's vice-chairman, said: "We were more fortunate than the other two clubs [Colwyn Bay and Caernarfon Town] in that we had less far, only 50 miles, to travel. We also have a

thriving letter-box tote that brings in about £1,000 a week and the Lifeline Society from Newport County days that brings in about £500."

It was the existence of the Lifeline that persuaded Brown and eight others still on the 12-strong board that the club could be revived. "We've remained a supporters' club," Brown said. "The supporters all know us. If there is something they don't like, they don't hesitate to tell us, and that's the way it should be."

"Mind you, there weren't too many complaints on Tuesday night. The atmosphere was fantastic. It was on a par with the night Newport County played Carl Zeiss Jena in the European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final. There were 18,000 at Somerton Park that night but the feeling was the same, if not better."

To round off a happy night, Newport won the match 4-0 to give promise of a prosperous second season under the management of Graham Rogers, who took the team to fourth place last season. Rogers has signed Ray John, a sweeper from Inter Cardiff, Ceri Williams, a forward, and Mark Tucker, a midfielder player, from Merthyr Tydfil.

ATHLETICS

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Saturday portrait: Mary Pierce by Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent

Tormented daddy's girl enjoying her new-found freedom

The party was not yet over for a couple of infamous and celebrated teenagers. Leaving the informal celebrations at the Virginia Slims tournament last November, they stepped out together into a chill Manhattan evening in search of their own chosen form of entertainment.

They made an odd pair. One of them was overweight, in temporary retirement and about to run publicly into trouble twice with the police. The other was as slim as a reed, emerging from personal torment and about to be lavishly described as the saviour of women's tennis.

For four years Jennifer Capriati and Mary Pierce had, unknowingly, been inextricably linked. In turn the youngest Americans ever to turn professional, both had become exasperated by the demands imposed on them by their unforgiving and grotesquely ambitious fathers.

Capriati rebelled, dropped out of tennis and was arrested first for shoplifting and then for possession of cannabis. Yet it had been her initial success that had compelled Jim Pierce to behave in a manner which was to earn him the sobriquet "the tennis father from hell".

The boorish and abusive former convict could not accept that the daughter he worshipped could be overshadowed by another prodigy 14 months younger. He felt he required a greater return for being prepared to sell the family home and travel around in a camper van. He ranted at the sponsors of the women's tour, he raved at the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and he roared at Mary. In a sport known for the ruthlessness of parents pushing their offspring and exploiting the commercial rewards for their own benefit, he was the most notorious.

During one match, he yelled: "Kill the bitch, Mary." He threw things at her, he openly chastised her as she was leaving the court, he beat her (one of his blows to her face caused her to pull out of an Italian-Open) and she also alleges that he threatened to kill her.

Two years ago, Capriati was heard to scream at her father, Stefano: "You are destroying my life." A few months later Pierce, after being berated once again by her father during a defeat by Monica Seles at the Paris indoor tournament, stated privately that she hated him.

At the ensuing press conference, she kept her composure and her thoughts to herself. She continued publicly to defend and protect the ogre who called her "my girl, a goddess" even after he had been frogmarched out of last year's French Open for yet another series of disgraceful outbursts.

Nevertheless, she consented to the punishment which was later imposed (he was banned from attending her matches) and took a further step to sever links. Although he had no tennis know-

'Grimly resolute but remarkably meek, she is well-balanced in spite of her tortured upbringing'

ledge or experience, he had insisted on acting as her coach and manager. He was dismissed from the post.

So did Pierce's mother, Yannick, a native of France. She started divorce proceedings but the threat of violent retribution was such that she hired a group of bodyguards to accompany her and her daughter during their subsequent retreat to the Italian countryside.

Pierce, 19, born in Canada, had had her national allegiance altered. In 1990 her father, incensed by the USTA's supposed lack of support, had taken her to represent France in the Federation Cup. Unable to speak the language fluently, she was perceived by her new compatriots to be an intruder.

She was also perceived by the public to be haughty and discourteous on court, a legacy of paternal misguidance. Against such a tempestuous background, she might

predictably have followed the same wayward route as Capriati, known even before her downfall as "the has-been who never was".

Pierce has instead gone in the other direction. By a curious twist, the dramatic transformation was to be completed in Roland Garros, where she had had to endure the last of her father's embarrassing tirades. In May this year she overwhelmed Steffi Graf to reach the French Open final.

Under her father, she had won only four comparatively trivial tournaments and had never beaten anyone in the world's top ten. "When things got tough," she said, "I used to get upset and lose my mind, my concentration and the match." In such distracting circumstances, no wonder.

Under her own auspices in New York ten months ago, she achieved the long-awaited breakthrough, defeating Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova on her way to the Virginia Slims final. Now guided by Nick Bollettieri and Sven Groeneveld, she has developed swiftly from an unfulfilled talent to a certified threat.

Benefiting from dance classes, performed to the rapid beat of techno music "to make her feet think better", and weight training, she has since broken into the top ten. The principal change was in her mental approach. She was no longer inhibited by the fear of admonitions.

She recalls 1993 as "a difficult year. I made a big decision in my life and I don't regret making it because everything has turned out for the best. It is a lot more fun on and off the court now. Mentally I'm calmer and I'm taking things less seriously".

The new freedom of expression was graphically revealed three months ago on the centre court at Roland Garros. After conceding an average of one game a round, a record unmatched since the complex was built in 1928, she dismissed Graf, the crushingly dominant figure in the women's game, 6-2, 6-2.

At the conclusion of a day she reckoned to be the best of her life, she had been chastised by the



ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

French media as "the blonde tornado" and by the rest as "the saviour of women's tennis". The title had once been hung loosely around the 14-year-old neck of Capriati.

Until Pierce learns to play on grass (she lost to a 15-year-old novice in the under-21 event at Eastbourne and belatedly withdrew from Wimbledon for the second successive year), the claim is premature. Graf, though admit-

ting her rival is "awfully strong", agreed that she is not yet sufficiently consistent.

To complement a reliable double-fisted backhand she has one of the most potent forehands in the game. But like virtually every other emerging youngster, she also lacks variety. Nevertheless, she enters the US Open in New York next week as the fourth seed. At the French Open she was seeded twelfth.

Grimly resolute but remarkably meek and well-balanced in spite of her tortured upbringing, she need never be concerned about finance. Already a millionairess, she owns properties in Paris and Bradenton, in Florida, and has a lucrative contract with Nike.

She should not thank her benefactors, though, for their present choice of dress. The 19-year-old, who could forge a secondary career as a model, has been

encased within a shapeless, billowing tent of an outfit that might have been designed for hotel chambermaids.

Not that she has never found herself short of cash. Later that night in Manhattan, last November, she and Capriati returned to the hotel to borrow some money before setting off again. Party girls, they were destined not for much longer to dance to the same tune.

Jordan's drivers shorten the odds

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN SPA FRANCORCHAMPS

FLAVIO Briatore, the Benetton managing director, made a wager with Eddie Jordan in a restaurant near the track here on Thursday night. He bet the Irishman a considerable sum of money that the Ligier team, which he has just bought, would finish above Jordan's at the end of the season. He may be regretting it now.

Rubens Barrichello, the young Brazilian driver who many feel may be the heir to his late compatriot, Ayrton Senna, stole Jordan's first provisional pole position in the last seconds of the first qualifying session for tomorrow's Belgian Grand Prix.

His team-mate, the much-maligned and underrated Ed-

die Irvine, was fourth. Their bravura performances, which brought cheers from all around the track here and a rueful shake of the head from Michael Schumacher, who was beaten into second place by 0.3sec, may have owed more to shrewd management in changing weather conditions than raw power, as both drivers switched to slick tyres when the track began to dry just in time to record their quick laps while others persevered with wet tyres.

Their positions were, however, the latest indications that the team, which only entered grand prix racing in 1991, is continuing its steady progress towards the top end of the grid. Barrichello is likely to move to McLaren next year but the team has already been linked with Christian

Fittipaldi as a replacement and Irvine is improving with every race.

It pushed thoughts of the gathering climax to the championship, which Schumacher leads from Damon Hill by 31 points, and of tomorrow's race, which Hill and his team-mate, David Coulthard, are expected to dominate, momentarily off the agenda.

"This is a great reward for a lot of hard work," Jordan said afterwards. "It is a really good feeling. I'm mindful of the fact

that the job is only half done—we have got to stay in this position tomorrow, which might be difficult."

The performance of Barrichello, 22, who said he would be praying for more rain last night, was not the only thing to enliven the dying minutes of qualifying. For much of the session it seemed that Jean Alesi, of Ferrari, would be quickest but Schumacher and then Hill bettered his times. Alesi switched to slick tyres for late assault, only to be blocked by

the McLaren-Peugeot of Martin Brundle.

The two drivers, who have been involved in a simmering feud since a series of incidents two years ago, dived wheel to wheel for much of the final lap until Alesi muscled his way through. When they returned to the pits, the Frenchman hurled down his helmet, pushed aside those trying to restrain him and marched into Brundle's garage.

"We sensed it shouting," Brundle said afterwards. "We didn't throw any punches. I'm not here to please Jean Alesi. It was my last lap, too, and he was just trying to get a tow off me. He ruined my last lap and I ruined his and there is not much more to say about it. We all know he is a bit of a hot head. He threatened to kill me two years ago but I did not take it too seriously."

Alesi looked ashen with anger. "This is not the first time this sort of thing has happened between us," he said. "This time, I went to his place and told him 'Martin, you are driving for McLaren in Formula One not because of your value but because they could not get anybody else.'"

Secret of not-so-tough triathlete swimmers

The triathlon — swim-bike-run — is supposed to be the toughest of all the tough events: men and women, trained to a hair, glistering with muscles, twanging with tendons, personifications of strength and endurance eyeing the world grandly through their wrap-around reflective eejit-glasses. Just how tough can a triathlete get? Well, last week an event was held at Knock Castle, and for the first time in the history of British triathlon, the water was so warm — 21°C — that competitors were forbidden to wear wet suits, under the rules of the British Triathlon Association. A dozen competitors promptly refused to take part. They packed up their rubber and went, eejit-glasses and all. The point about a wet suit is that it not only protects you from the cold, it also helps you float. You might as well wear a rubber ring. It improves performance over the triathlon "Olympic" distance of 1,500 metres by as much as three minutes. The poorer the swimmer, the more aid a wet suit gives. This is all frightfully good news for those who come into the sport from cycling and running: hilly courses are what they love, but not demanding swims. Odd that the cycling part of triathlon is conducted according to the rules of cycling, the running to the rules of running, and the swimming to the rule of the rubber ring. The wet-suit rule was originally introduced because competitors got hypothermia. It has been exploited "to help wimpish cyclists and wimpish runners". At least, that was how a cross-channel swimmer explained it to me.

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

Sue England? She is aged 15, but was good enough to turn out for Taunton the other weekend. She did the hat-trick in her first over, reducing mighty Roadwater to naught for three. She also had another wicket, a run-out and scored 16 runs.

All-round effort

And in the meantime, G. R. Lyon writes to ask if he has not discovered the finest fear of bowling in history. Mad digging through old copies of Wisden has unearthed Mr C. Absolon, who had a hand in all 20 wickets when he played for Wood Green against Molesey in 1904.



ted Wilesden in 1872. He clean bowled ten, had two hit wicket and six caught, and caught the remaining two. Wisden records that Absolon was "welter in weight and veteran in years", but in that season he took 519 wickets, scored 1,109 runs and did the hat-trick seven times. Is anything more known. I wonder, of Mr Absolon?

Inside name

Is this the ultimate piece of sports memorabilia? O. J. Simpson has taken to signing and dating bubble-gum cards in his cell in Washing-

ton. He has polished off 300 of them, and they are now changing hands at \$850 (\$575) each.

Mean player

It is quite right that Barry Bonds, the baseball player with San Francisco Giants, should be on strike. The poor man is on a mere pittance: he is in the second year of a six-year contract worth nothing more than a measly \$43.7 million (\$29 million). He is at present baseball's best-paid player: it works out at a grudging \$270,000 a week. So naturally, the impecunious Mr Bonds has been pleading hardship in court. He asked to have his payments to his former wife reduced. The court went along with this, cutting the money from \$15,000 a month to \$7,500. The judge then asked Bonds for his autobiography. "My client does not feel she was playing on a level playing field," her lawyer said.

View from afar

"Atherton's sin is equal to the one committed by Diego Maradona," writes Elmo Rodrigopulle in the Sri Lankan paper *The Island*, in a cutting brought to my attention by Alan Gardner. "England's cricket and the game in general was never before tarnished and ridiculed as when skipper Michael Atherton besmirched it by tampering with the ball." Rodrigopulle tells us, "England have always been poor losers. Sri Lanka had a fair share of the cry-baby act when England played here and lost under Alec Stewart. The only thing the Brits did was to give the wonderful game of cricket to the world. But sadly, they have not imparted the spirit of the game." Always salutary to learn how others see you.

Treorchy aim for top six

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the vicissitudes of the late Eighties and early Nineties, when Welsh rugby seemed like a drowning man coming up for air only to submerge again, 1994 has so far been a cause for congratulation: a five nations championship, qualification for the World Cup and, only this week, the satisfaction of beating Australia on their own turf, albeit at schoolboy level.

There is also the emergence of an administrator in Vernon Pugh who seems prepared to battle not only the Welsh corner but the northern-hemisphere corner in rugby's political power game. That, though, may not be the first topic of conversation on the terraces for in the hospitality suites when the Heineken League opens for its fifth season today.

Concern will be over the mixed standards on display last season; the effect of international commitments on club fortunes (Wales face

three internationals before Christmas and four afterwards, quite apart from World Cup requirements); the economic demands on clubs still coming to terms with a semi-professional era; and the impact on the established order of the "new-wave" clubs.

Dunvant, last season, were the first to break through in the first division of the league. They did so with no great fanfare and hung on, even through some dark days, to fight again this season. All summer, though, the actions of Treorchy, the second-division champions, have been monitored closely because here, it is believed, is a genuine new force.

Treorchy (Rhondda) RFC — more familiarly known as Rhondda Zebras — are unashamedly ambitious. They make no secret of their pretensions, nor of the crusading zeal which in the Welsh past has fuelled so many notable

patriots. In Treorchy they have a dream, yet it is based on some notably hard heads and a clarity of purpose which has both repelled critics, who accuse them of buying in teams, and attracted players who identify such ambition with their own.

Nine players will make their debuts for Treorchy against Neath at The Gnoll this evening but only one team member, Nigel Berbillion on the wing, has not experienced first-division rugby before. Nor will they be content with survival: sixth place is the minimum requirement to sustain the dream.

Swansea, the champions, begin with the hardest of games, at Stradey Park against Llanelli, who parade Adrian Varney, late of Neath, in their back row. A week ago Varney was heading for Cardigan in the fifth division but now he answers the Scarlet call because they have lost Lyn Jones and Mark Peregé.

THE TIMES
Mees Pierson
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LONDON W1P 7HH

BY PAT GIBSON

He did not get far. Benjamin had him dropped at third step when he had made one, saw an attempted hook sail back over his head and then watched another fly straight to square leg. Fortunately for Middlesex, Haynes was at his most obdurate and the more adventurous Ramprakash had helped him put on 93 before Benjamin had the West Indian caught behind.

BY ALAN LEE
SET CORRESPONDENT

The hall did not turn as much as anticipated. Of Nottinghamshire's left-arm spinners the pick was not Aford, the senior of the three, nor the willowy Adams, but Hindson, whose sixth first-class match this was and who has developed the loop of one more mature than his 20 years.

On his debut two years ago, Hindson took eight wickets in the match against a Cam-

By Ivo Tennant

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Mike, it was through his batting that he proved himself as a batsman. He was through his batting that he proved himself as a batsman. He was through his batting that he proved himself as a batsman.

continued to stand on his shoulders above the other side. The going, it could be said, was a sh-winner. The day started largely in the hands of Tim Boon and he overcame a slow start to the day. He started their side. The wickets had turned up, with a stand of 47 overs. But

place for the rest of the campaign, battling away 3½ hours for his 8½th achieving his best score in Leicestershire. Boon, a hard and willing accomplice, was first to leave, run out by Watkin's direct throw. The wicket was not long surviving Robinson, or for that matter anyone else but Briers.

The captain did his best to shore up the Leicestershire

ly low scores — Dale, for a duck, and Maynard, who had launched the sort of blitz that only a batsman of his powerful range of stroke could have attempted. He struck 34 from only 36 balls, treating Mills and Parsons, with the new ball, like medium-pacers. Glamorgan's main hopes now rest with Hemp and Cottey. But do not book tickets for Monday.

tween players and owners aimed at ending the Major League strike, were broken off on Thursday, after just one day of talks, 14 days into the stoppage. No date was set for further talks, but it was hoped that the negotiations — stuck on the owners' desire to limit salaries and the players' rejection of any kind of salary cap — would resume in the middle of next week.

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Talks collapse

BASEBALL: Negotiations between players and owners aimed at ending the Major League strike, were broken off on Thursday, after just one day of talks, 14 days into the stoppage. No date was set for further talks, but it was hoped that the negotiations — stuck on the owners' desire to limit salaries and the players' rejection of any kind of salary cap — would resume in the middle of next week.

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A Sánchez, Lorenzo (Sol) 3-1, 7-5, 1-1
Demongott (Fr) et C. Esmans (Bel) 1-6, 6-2, 6-2
R Simpson Alter (Can) et E. Jaramnez-Sanz (Cz) 6-2, 6-2; M Paz (Arg) et E. Hakami 6-2, 4-6, 6-0; J. Noyedy (Cze) et K. de Wette (Hol) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; R. Herold (Japen) et H. Miyayuchi (Japen) 6-1, 6-1; S. Pilchowski (Fr) et S. Pilchowiec (Aus) 6-3, 6-1; A. Bascia et S. Jeyendoss (Can) 6-1, 6-1; S. Jeyendoss (Can) et S. Jeyendoss (Can) 7-5, 6-1; C. Wille (Hol) et T. Samarra 6-3, 7-5, E. Adams et L. Schaefer (Par) 6-2, 6-1; D. van Rensburg (SA) et S. McCarthy 6-3, 7-5; N. Gernuta (Japen) et J. Pudis (Eng) 5-3, 6-1; N. Miyai (Japen) et S. Ramon (Esp) 6-0, 6-2; M. Washington et F. Fortini (It) 6-1, 6-1; M. de Swart (SA) et P. Radzowa (Cz) 6-1, 6-1; T. Josthove (Rus) et M. Jaggard-Lis (Aus) 7-5, 6-1

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6-2, 6-1: C Vis (Hol) bt T Samara 6-3, 7-8, E Adams bt L Schaefer (Par) 6-2, 6-1; D van Rensburg (SA) bt S McCarthy 6-3, 7-5; N Kinnato (Japan) bt J Pullin (Eng) 5-3, 6-1; N Miyagi (Japan) bt S Ramon (Sp) 8-0, 6-2; M Washington bt F Fournier (It) 6-1, 6-3; M de Swart (SA) bt P Rappola (Cz) 6-4, 6-1; T Ignatyev (Russ) bt M Jaggard-Lei (Aus) 7-6, 4-2.

BY JACK BAILEY

Leicestershire, largely in the shape of Tim Boon and Phil Robinson, overcame a distinctly ugly start to the day. These two bolstered their side. After three wickets had tumbled for 38 runs, with a stand worth 132 from 47 overs. But

for Leicestershire when Nigel Briers, one of their overnight batsmen, spent his morning in hospital instead of at the crease. Happily, a shoulder damaged on Thursday evening by a ball from Gibson, had been bruised, not broken.

and willing accomplice, was first to leave, run out by Watkin's direct throw. He was not long survived by Robinson, or, for that matter, anyone else but Briers.

The captain did his best to shore up the Leicestershire

attempted. He struck 34 from only 36 balls, treating Millns and Parsons, with the new ball, like medium-pacers. Glamorgan's main hopes now rest with Hemp and Cottley. But do not book tickets for Monday.

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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

... ..	22
... ..	18
... ..	9
... ..	66
33.5 overs)	512
120 overs: 449-8	
F WICKETS: 1-39, 2-60, 3-161,	
4-226, 5-382, 7-454, 8-485, 9-486	
3-6: Curmidge, 27-1-01-0; Brown	
1-1; Wood 30-0-141-6; Bannbridge	
3-6: 34-5-6-128-3	
DURHAM: First Innings	
... ..	8
... ..	13
... ..	115

Two second-innings wickets in hand, are 55 runs ahead of Warwickshire	
SUSSEX: First Innings 131 (T M Muntton 4 for 22)	
Second Innings	
N J Latham c Ooster b Small	1
C W J Athey c Piper b Small	13
D F Stephenson b Muntton	0
W H Hall b Muntton	14
N A P Wells c Piper b Twiss	12
M P Spangit not out	14
R P Moore not out	1
D J Birtwell and J Birch	0
D I K Salisbury bow b Small	13
E F Herrings not out	1
Extras (fb 1, w 5, nb 6)	12

Unpress: B Leachlester and B J Meyer.

Abbot Ale Championship Final

Ealing v Chorley

LORDS (Chorley won toss): Chorley beat Ealing by five wickets

EALING

S R A Western c Fozzakerley b Purnell	12
M S Athumala b Cantrell	16
R M Pepper b Barnister	69
P E Westlings run out	47
K Dandanya c Barnister b Daskin	57

BOWLING		Pakistan Attack		14.2-4-32-4
Waqar Younes 14-4-34-6				
PAKISTAN First Innings				
Speed	Anders Irfan b Pushpakuma	31		
Area	Conal not out	0		
	Mushtaq Ahmed run out	68		
	Asif Mujtaba not out	0		
	Batas (4, 4, 1, nb 4)	1		
	Total (2 wkts)	109		
"Salim Malik, Basim Ali, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Razaiz Latif, Waqar Ahsan, Waqar Younes and Kader Khan to bat				
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-94, 2-84				
BOWLING				
Saeed Anwar 11-2-44-0, Pushpakuma				
10-2-11.1, Dramasena 7-1-19-0				

GLIDING

LASHMA: National junior championships:
Sixth day (11/30) in Andrews (Memory D
combos) of 34: 1. W Lital (451)
111.20m, 365pts; 2. R Toon (107.6 B 108 B,
34.85, 3. Westgate (Parus) 2; 3. D, 351.4,
1 Evans (Homes) 107.2, 348; 5. R Tal (3rd
Jan) 105.6, 343. Overall (car days of seven,
3 of 3): 1. D Almon (L 351.4) 371.2m; 2. Westgate
370.8; 3. D Parus (Parus) C 359.1; 4. Toon

RECORD

184

GIRAMANI (USA) 6-1; 6-1; N. Melnikova (UKR) by S. Szostak (USA) 3-0; 3-1; 7-5; N. Melnikova (UKR) by I. Vlasov (ITA) 6-3; 6-3; 6-3; C. Costner (ITA) by E. Hensson (ITA) 6-3; 3-8; 6-3.

NEW YORK'S Hamlet cup: Second round: K. Nowosad (CZE) by L. Pflour (ITA) 7-6; 5-7; 7-6; K. Kelcevska (Russia) by M. Hladik (Cze) 6-3; 6-3; F. Renschberg (US) by M. Joyce (USA) 6-1; 7-6; M. Ching (US) by I. Martinez (Mex) 6-2; 6-1.

NEW YORK Qualifying matches for US open: Women: First round (US unseeded) N. Sandrine (Fr) by L. Garrone (It) 6-2; 6-1; E. Savicki (Pl) by A. Vieira (Br) 6-3; 6-4; F. Grande (Aus) by L. Field (Auc) 6-3; 6-2; A. Ternesvart (Hun) by G. Goehring (Aus) 7-6; 6-2; M.-J. Gardano (Arg) by J. Lee (S-C) 4-6; 6-2; M.

A Sánchez, Lorenzo (Sol) 9-1, 7-6, 1-6
 A Demongot (Fr) et C. Esmans (Bel) 1-6, 6-4, 8-2
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 J. Nijepdy (Can) et K. de Wette (Hol) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; R. Herold (Japen) et H. Miyayuchi (Japen) 6-1, 6-1; S. Pilchowski (Fr) et S. Pilchowiec (Aut) 6-3, 6-2; A. Bascetta et S. Jeyendoss (Can) 6-2, 6-2
 7-6, 6-1; C. Wille (Hol) et T. Somersø 6-3, 7-5, E. Adams et L. Schwaerer (Par) 6-2, 6-1; D. van Rensburg (SA) et S. McCarthy 6-3, 7-5; N. Gernuta (Japen) et J. Pudín (Esp) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; N. Miyai (Japen) et S. Ramon (Esp) 6-0, 6-2; M. Washington et F. Fortini (It) 6-1, 6-2; M. de Swaert (SA) et P. Ragnoli (Cz) 6-4, 6-1; T. Kynasthew (Rus) et M. Jaggard-Lis (Aus) 7-6, 6-2

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Lone of C. Wiegink (Netherlands)

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(Japan) 6-1, 6-1; S
(Aus) 6-3, 6-1; A Be
7-5, 6-4: T Kizan (

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OFFERS



Exclusive Aladdin stamps to collect

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PLUS: Your passport to historic houses, page 5

TRAVEL

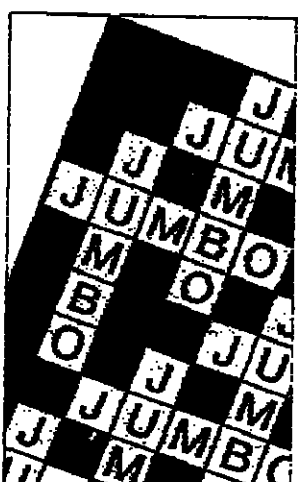


Doing America by camper van — at 50

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GAMES



Test your wordpower on our jumbo crossword

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BOOKS



My quest to meet Brigitte Bardot

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WEEKEND

IS FAKE FRANCE BETTER THAN THE REAL THING?



Welcome to the small, golden medieval town of Sarlat-la-Canéda. According to all the guide books it is one of the jewels of Dordogne: the foie gras of southwest France, says the new Cadogan guide to the Dordogne; an architectural treasure, adds the Lonely Planet guide. Few towns in France evoke so moving a vision of the past, says Michelin.

Surrounded by an "earth-bound Eden", Sarlat, with the golden stonework of its ancient houses and narrow streets, is where your heart is certain to be captured in this most pastoral of French regions, says Richard Birns in *French Leave Encore*, the most companionable of the English guides to

France. On holiday in Périgord two weeks ago, I naturally hastened to Sarlat. It was my worst experience in more than 30 years of annual visits to France. Suddenly I happened on a nightmare in a country that has never before disappointed me: a town of real beauty that is being destroyed by tourism and tourists, at least in August, which is when most tourists visit it.

Thirty years ago Sarlat was chosen as one of the first French towns for restoration and protection by the state, under the *Loi Malraux*, a step taken to protect its heritage and to attract some of the 60 million tourists who now spend £15 billion a year in France. Since then the citizens of Sarlat have made the heart of the town a pedestrian precinct.

By Brian MacArthur

On a hot August afternoon, the result of that eminently sensible decision is that the hundreds of visitors face a traffic jam as they approach and then a long tour for parking. After that the streets are thronged with tourists (so many now carrying video cameras), packed with stalls selling tourist tat, shop after shop selling the regional specialties of foie gras and *confit de canard* or specially packaged Bergerac wines at rip-off prices. The tourists, meanwhile, are serenaded on every corner by wandering troubadours, few of whom seem to be French.

I fled, but met the same nightmare scenario

at the nearby "honey-hued" hilltop *bastide* of Domme, overlooking the Dordogne far below and with panoramic views across the soft Périgord countryside. It was even more difficult to park, still more thronged with tourists, and a can of Coke cost £2.

The paradox of my French holiday was that the grim "reality" of Sarlat and Domme was so much less soul inspiring than the "virtual reality" of Lascaux 2, the replica of the original Lascaux cave, where one of the world's outstanding examples of prehistoric art was discovered in 1940. What has happened at Lascaux is a telling demonstration of the perils of mass tourism — but also of how they can be overcome, at least for a few years until all is swamped yet again. The Lascaux cave

was opened to the public in 1948. Yet within 15 years paintings that had survived for 15,000 years were deteriorating. The breath of a million visitors caused a green fungus to grow over the paintings and the colours started to fade. The cave was closed.

There was such an outcry that an underground replica of the two most beautiful chambers, including the Hall of the Bulls, painted with the same colours and techniques used 15,000 years ago — animal fat and juniper twigs — was built 200 yards or so away.

That took 15 years but the result is a memorable tourist attraction, where the number of visits is strictly rationed. Only 2,000

Continued on page 3, col 1

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TO OUR MEMBERS WE'RE THE 4TH EMERGENCY SERVICE

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Planning an evening out, or a day with the family? *Times* critics select the best entertainment around

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

SPORTING LONDON: Among the subjects dealt with literally, fantastically and at any rate exhaustively in London Transport posters through the years is sport. The present exhibition dubs 1913-1950 the golden age of spectator sport, which may be true. It was the golden age for poster-artists treating sport. The posters of the era tell would-be customers the where and how of access as well as painting an alluring picture of, say, tennis, cricket, football or greyhound racing. Film footage and other documents fill out the story.

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM: Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-379 6344). Daily 10am-6pm, until March 26 1995. Admission to museum £3.95, concessions £2.50.

EVELYN GIBBS: Any show reviving interest in the women artists of early 20th-century Britain includes Evelyn Gibbs. But a handful of prints, striking though they may be, does not give a sufficient idea of her talent, which ran wide and deep. She was born in 1906 in Liverpool but spent an important part of her life in Nottingham, where she was an official war artist in the factories and was very influential in art education. Her own art begins with sombre, Euston-roadish realism, but moves on to something more impressionistic and visionary, ending with extraordinary semi-abstract cliff landscapes that could also be aspects of the human body.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

THE MASK (PG): Rubber-faced comic Jim Carrey gets his best screen vehicle so far in this Jekyll and Hyde affair about a mild bank



Eye-popping: Jim Carrey

official who unleashes the beast within when he dons a mask. Helped by computer-generated special effects, Carrey leaps round the screen, changing shape almost as often as the Genie in *Aladdin*. No other film has found so many live-action equivalents for the madcap energy of 1940s cartoons. Director, Charles Russell.

MGMs: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Shaftesbury Ave (071-836 6279) Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Phoenix (081-883 2233) Plaza (0800 888997) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332) Warner (071-437 4343)

WOLF (15): Jack Nicholson may start out as a wimp with pipe and glasses, but the effects of his wolf bite are soon visible: extra hair, enhanced senses and sexual appetite. He has a new relish for office politics (he works as a publisher in New York) and an ability to leap in the air and maul muggers in Central Park. The spectacle is always intelligent, always amusing, though these very qualities rob Mike Nichols' plush film of some of the visceral shocks usually expected from werewolf dramas.

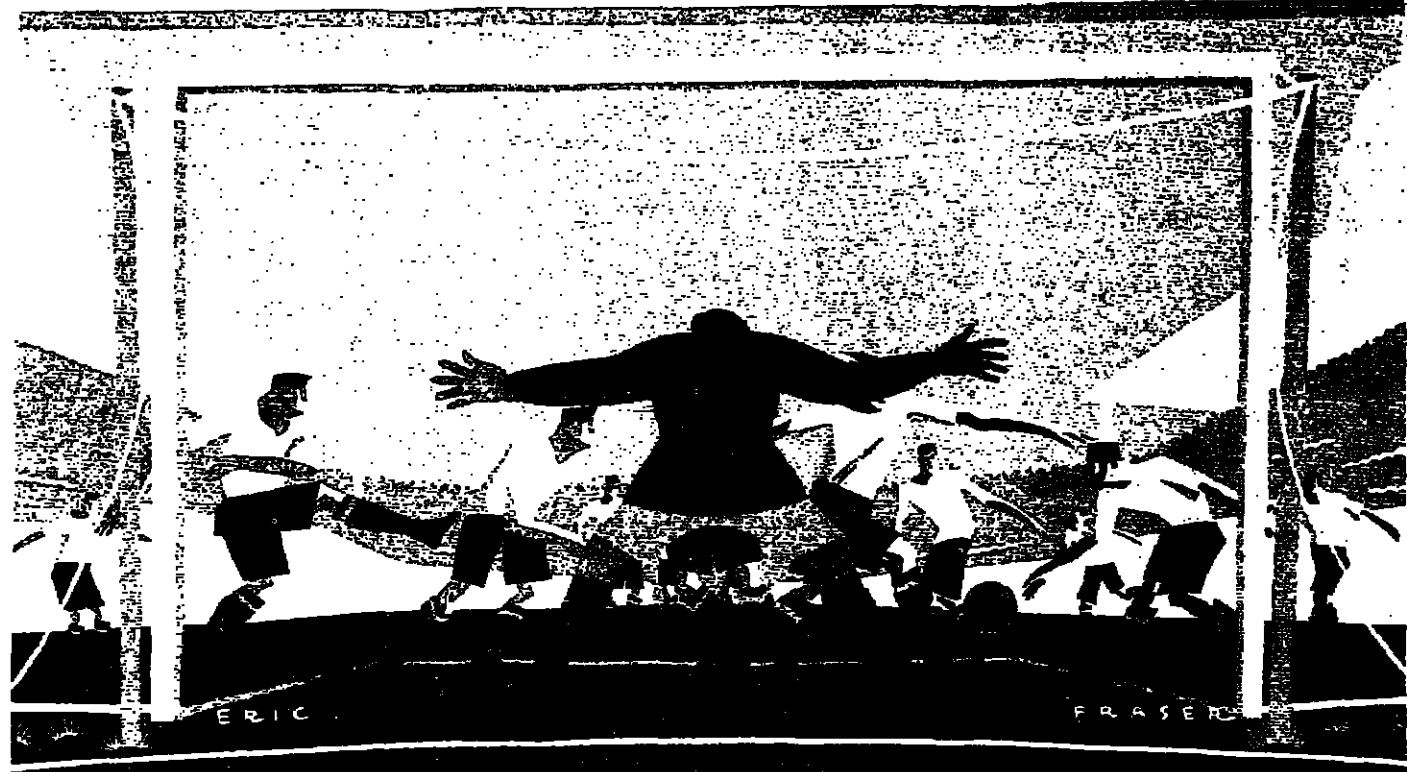
Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kennington (0426 914666) Leicester Square (0426 914088) Swiss Cottage (071-227 6705) Screen/Baker Street (071-935 2772) Screen/Green (071-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332)

• More films, page 6

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

TURNER'S HOLLAND: The richness of Turner's work is so inexhaustible that it continues to yield fresh revelations. The Tate Gallery's latest exhibition centres on his relationship with Holland, which began when the young Turner fell in love with a blustery sea painting by Van de Velde. Dutch artists prompted him to vie with their marine pictures throughout his life. But Turner's interest was reinforced when he made his first visit to the United Netherlands, which then incorporated Belgium. In a painting of the Battle of Waterloo he produced a hard-hitting anti-war image of corpses strewn across the battlefield. The anger and despair in this nocturnal scene contrasts abso-



CUP FINAL WEMBLEY SATURDAY APRIL 24TH FROM ANY UNDERGROUND STATION

A London Transport poster from 1926, right in the middle of the "golden age" of spectator sport, shows the ease of travelling to venues

lutely with the gusto of Turner's infectious sea pieces.

Tate Gallery, London Milbank (071-887 8000), until October 2.

DANCE

John Percival

HELEN CHADWICK: Only two days left to catch the Serpentine Gallery's popular and much discussed show. Helen Chadwick arrests our attention at once with *Cacao*, a bubbling fountain of chocolates. Its smell, colour and plopping noise are magnetic. But the photographic *Wreaths to Pleasure* hung on the nearby walls point to an interest in mortality as well as pleasure. This duality runs through the whole show, alternately seducing and disquieting. The outcome is Chadwick's most impressive exhibition to date, marking her out as an artist who can delight and provoke in equal measure.

Serpentine Gallery (071-723 9072) until August 29.

DANCE

John Percival

MERCE CUNNINGHAM: Those who use computer keyboards will get the point of *Enter*, the title Cunningham has given to his work which has its British premiere at Edinburgh this weekend. The master choreographer, who risked introducing chance into his work with the aid of the Chinese I Ching system, is still, aged 75, trying new tricks, in the form of dances which he invents on a special three-dimensional computer program.

Playhouse, Greenside Place, Edinburgh (031-225 5756) today at 7.30pm, and tomorrow at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

FRINGE EXOTICS: Two lunchtime programmes this year are a cut above the general run of Edinburgh Fringe Festival dance

events. *Fiesta Mexicana* consists of historical and present-day dances and songs, lively and varied with a touch of comedy, from all parts of Mexico. **Hill Street Theatre** (031-226 6522), daily at noon, except tomorrow, until September 3. Wendy Buonoventura's *Dancing Girls* is the story of Egyptian dance ("belly dancing") with extracts from travellers' accounts and beautifully sinuous, stylish dances. **Demarco Foundation, York Lane** (031-558 3371), daily at 12.15pm, except tomorrow until Sept 3.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

PICK OF THE PROMS: Two of the finest American orchestras follow each other on to the Albert Hall platform this week. The Cleveland Orchestra has two typically serious programmes under Christoph von Dohnanyi. Tonight, Birnstein's crumpling but magnificent *Earth Dances* is prefaced by more melodious fare: Dvorak's "New World" Symphony and Charles Ives's *Central Park in the Dark*. Tomorrow (8pm), Stravinsky's Violin Concerto (the soloist is Christian Tetzlaff) is followed by Mahler's First Symphony. Then the Los Angeles Philharmonic flies in for two programmes under Esa-Pekka Salonen. Lutoslawski's superb Fourth Symphony, written for this orchestra, opens the first programme (Tuesday), with Mozart and Sibelius. The second (Thursday, 7pm) is a clash of heavyweights: Hindemith and Bruckner symphonies. **Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7** (071-589 8212), 7.30pm except where stated.

BOULEZ IN EDINBURGH: Pierre Boulez and his Ensemble Intercontemporain appear for two concerts. Next Friday (Queen's

Hall, 11am) is a programme of Boulez classics: *Le marteau sans Maitre* and *Domaines*. Then on Saturday at 5pm in the Playhouse, Boulez conducts the British premiere of his latest piece... *explosante fixe*... Nobody has explored the spatial possibilities of amplified sounds more excitingly than the Frenchman. **Edinburgh Festival: box office** 031-225 5756.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

900 ONEONTA: David Beard's ebulliently-acted play involves alcoholism, rape, incest, dope addiction, abortion, madness, racism, religion and other such Southern diversions. The result smacks of a collaboration between Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner and



Ben Daniels and Sophie Okonedo in 900 Oneonta

Fungus the Bogeyman — farcical *Grand Guignol*. **Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1** (071-925 7616), Evenings, Monday to Friday at 7.45pm, Saturday at 8pm; matinees, Thursday at 3pm and Saturday at 4pm.

THE TEMPEST: Simon Russell Beale's Ariel is a shop steward in a Mao suit, seething with resentment at Alec McCowen's notably mild Prospero. There are, however, many fine moments in Sam Mendes's revival, many involving David Bradley's Trinculo, a lugubrious pier-end ventriloquist. **Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2** (071-638 8891), Wed, August 31 at 7.15pm, and Thursday Sept 1 at 2pm and 7.15pm.

• More theatre, page 6

OPERA

Richard Cork

THE RELUCTANT KING: With luck the new title will win *Le Roi Malgré Lui* the audiences it deserves. There have never been any doubts about Chabrier's fabulous music: it's just that nobody — least of all the composer — has ever understood the wildly convoluted plot. So director Jeremy Sams and playwright Michael Wilcox have supplied a completely new English libretto for Opera North's Edinburgh Festival production conducted by Paul Daniel. The company also revives Chabrier's scabrously witty opera, *L'Étoile*. **Kings Theatre** (2), Leven Street, Edinburgh (031-225 5756) — *L'Étoile*, Wednesday Aug 31 and Friday Sept 2 at 7.15pm. *Le Roi Malgré Lui* — Thursday Sept 1 and Saturday Sept 3 at 7.15pm.

THE THIEVING MAGPIE: British Youth Opera, that vital showcase for young singers poised between conservatoire and career, stages a new production by Jamie Hayes of Rossini's masterpiece about a servant girl within a whisker of being executed for stealing her employer's silver. Part comedy, part thriller (but the tide reveals whodunnit), part heartfelt

social protest, the opera is based on fact. **Sadler's Wells Theatre** (2), Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), Thursday L 7.15pm

MUSIC

David Sinclair

TAKE THAT: The biggest touring attraction in Britain so far this year is not one of the old rock heavyweights (although Pink Floyd are on their way) or the latest American supergroup, but a teeny-pop sensation from Manchester whose appeal is beginning to stretch to the mums and dads. Nobody was surprised when Take That won the Best British Single category at this year's Brit Awards (for "Pray"), but the inclusion of their album *Everything Changes* in the ten nominations for the prestigious Mercury Music Prize was a distinction of a different order.

Their music is "too good to be the exclusive property of their fans" according to the judging panel but, for all lead singer and songwriter Gary Barlow's pure pop craftsmanship, their shows still tend to be the domain of shrieking, pre-pubescent girls. **SECC, Finnieston Street, Glasgow** (041-248 3000), today and tomorrow. **G-Mex, Manchester** (061-832 9000), Tuesday Aug 30-Thurs Sept 1, Tues Oct 4, Wed Oct 5. **The Point, Dublin** (010 253 136077), Sat Sept 3, Sunday Sept 4. **Sheffield Arena** (0742 565 500), Sept 6-10. **Cardiff International Arena** (0222 234500), Sept 12, 13. **Wembley Arena, west London** (081-900 1234), Sept 15-20. **Oct 7-9, NEC, Birmingham** (021-780 4133), Sept 22, 23, 26-28, 30. **Oct 1, Kings Hall, Belfast** (0232 665225), Oct 11, 12. All shows 7.30pm.

MIDNIGHT OIL: These Australian rent-a-cause rockers, led by the tall, aggressively bald figure of vocalist Peter Garrett, are veteran superstars at home, but remain a rather underrated commodity over here where "Beds Are Burning" is still their one success. Garrett, who stood unsuccessfully for election to the Australian parliament has been writing political speeches instead of song lyrics ever since. But he's a driven performer and the "Oils" are a road-hardened mob who can draw on a nine-album portfolio crammed with killer choruses. **Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12** (081-740 7474), Wed Aug 31, 7.30pm.

MUSIC

Clive Davis

TDK ROUND MIDNIGHT FESTIVAL: Amid the dying embers of the festival, Assembly Direct's season is distinguished by a thoughtful and varied programme, finding a balance between mainstream and "cutting edge" tastes. The opening night is presided over by Carol Kidd, the assured Scottish singer. The following night the saxophonist Phil Bancroft leads his new eight-piece band, on a double-bill with the duo of Andy Shepard and pianist Steve Lodder. Gary Thomas, another bustling saxophonist whose fusion-esque JMT albums have acquired



Phil Bancroft: new band

something of a cult following, pays a rare visit on Wednesday. **George Fane's Blue Flames** (Thurs) are always a dependable party band. **American pianist Mulgrew Miller** will play selections from his somewhat clinical trio album *With Our Own Eyes*, on Saturday. **Queens Hall, Clerk St, Edinburgh** 031-668 2019 Mon-Sat.

BUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL: Yes, it's true — traditional jazz gets a bad press in this country. Or more to the point, it gets little or no press at all, even though the genre remains extraordinarily popular with the public at large. There are two reasons. One is that the home-grown trad and New Orleans bands, with their emphasis on good-time music, lack the high-art cachet of, say, the beboppers. The other, less generous view is that most trad is based on a thoroughly predictable repertoire, performed with the minimum of imagination. Whatever the reality — and there is a grain of truth in both arguments — the annual gathering on the Cornwall/Devon border goes from strength to strength: 160 events are planned this week at 20 different venues. **George Melly and clarinetist/saxophonist Sammy Rimington** also star. **Various venues, Bude, Cornwall** (0288 356360), Mon to Sat.

CHILDREN

LONDON

Arabian Nights: The London Bubble presents a musical outdoors play for three to five year olds. (Inside facilities in case of rain.) Afterwards, create your own character from the *Arabian Nights* in a mask-making session with the actors. **Waterlow Park, Highgate Hill** (071-237 1663), Thursday Sept 1 and Saturday Sept 3 at 11am, adults and children £2.50.

Victoriana: play with Victorian toys, make Victorian food, learn about history the fun way. Must book in advance. **Wandsworth Museum, Putney Library, Disraeli Road** (081-871 7074), on Thursday Sept 1, 10-11.45am, admission free. 5

Last chance to see the Jungle Book: Vicky Ireland's adaptation of Kipling's classic. **Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon** (081-543 4889), today at 10.30am and 2pm, adults and children £5.50. 5

Eastway Cycle Centre: Hire a bike (or bring your own) and tackle the 1.6km undulating circuit and a 20m BMX track. Also mountain bikes. **Temple Mills Lane, E15** (081-534 0855), today, tomorrow, and daily from 8am-8pm (times change in winter), adults £4, children £3. Some special bikes available for disabled riders. (Ring first).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bucks Goat Centre: Most comprehensive collection of breeds in Britain. Feed them yourself: visit the pet's corner and take a donkey or pony ride.



Goats galore in Bucks

Layby Farm, Stoke Mandeville (0296 612983), daily, except Mondays, 10am-5pm, adults £2, children £1.50. 5

CHESHIRE

Adventure Playground and 1930s working farm. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 750250). **Open daily 10.30-4pm.** Adults from £2.50, children £1.50, £2 for car parking. 5

DERBYSHIRE

Holymoorside well dressing: Visit a newly-dressed well and a children's well according to local custom. **Recreation Ground, Holymoorside, Holymoorside** (0246 569177), open daily from 9am-9pm, admission free. 5

HAMPSHIRE

Sea Life Centre: Discover the world beneath the waves with an underwater walk illusion and the fascinating Shark Encounter. **Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Portsmouth** (0705 734461), open daily from 10am-9pm (times change in the autumn), adults £4.25, children £3.25. 5

OXFORDSHIRE

Water fowl sanctuary & rescue centre: Cuddle (under supervision) baby bunnies, chicks, ducklings, mice, etc. Also 3,000 birds and animals to view, plus adventure playground. Practical clothing advisable. **Wigginton Heath, Near Hook Norton, Banbury** (0608 730252), daily 10.30am-6pm, adults £2, children £1. 5

SCOTLAND

Anne Frank In The World: Exhibition showing the lead-up to the Second World War and the bravery of this child heroine. **Scotland Street School, 225, Scotland Street, Glasgow** (041-420 1202), starts Tuesday Aug 30 at 10am, admission free. 5

SUSSEX

Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre: White-faced whistling ducks. Hawaiian geese to feed and mute swans at this nature centre founded by Sir Peter Scott. **Mill Road, Arundel** (0903 883355), daily 9.30am-5.30pm, adults £3.95, children £2. 5

JANE BIDDER

Ruth Gledhill enjoys ice-cream and sunshine at an open-air service in Dorset

AT YOUR SERVICE



"MOB Attacks Wareham Police Station" was the unlikely message on the news billboard which greeted my arrival at this peaceful-looking Dorset town. After a walk between the Rivers Frome and Piddle, an open-air service on the quayside was the perfect way to end a holiday.

Dozens of others thought so too. Apart from announcements in local churches, the Quayside Praise, organised jointly by the Methodist, Anglican, United Reformed and Roman Catholic churches, was poorly advertised. But with just five minutes to go, more than 100 people, mainly rosy-cheeked young couples with children and elderly men and women, appeared as if from nowhere to sit in the circles of chairs that had arrived as if by magic next to the Quay Inn.

For more than 1,300 years, from before the time of St Aldhelm (639-709), first Bishop of Sherborne, Christians have worshipped on the site of the nearby Lady St Mary's, once the priory church of a Benedictine community but rebuilt in 1842. Memorial stones found in the old nave show that there was a Celtic church on the site before the Saxon one. King Beorhric of the West Saxons was buried there in 802 after he was "accidentally" poisoned by his wife, and it was the first resting place of King Edward, murdered aged 18 at Corfe Castle in 978.

Quayside Praise, which replaces evensong at Lady St Mary's throughout August, began 15 years ago, in brave defiance of



Holiday-makers gather for the service at Wareham Quay

the British summer. Luckily it was warm and sunny, but I gained the impression that no amount of rain could have driven the holidaymakers indoors.

After a rousing introit from the band, with the curate Richard Bartlett on the trombone, we launched into our first hymn, "When Morning Gilds the Skies". Boats pulled up and conversation stopped on the riverside tables outside the Old Granary restaurant nearby. Passers-by paused, and some joined in. Others leaped from cars, unfolded chairs, sat down and began to sing along. With the small car-park next to us filling rapidly, this began to feel like a drive-in service.

Canon Peter Hardman, rector of Lady St Mary, welcomed us and announced the theme, sunshine and clouds. "This afternoon is a perfect metaphor for that because we have both in the sky," he said. "If you want it to be sunny, feel it shining on you, so warm and strong. If you want it to be cloudy, feel it shading you from

the sun. Life is sunshine and cloud, it has great moments of joy and also times of great sorrow."

The imagery continued. "Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea," we sang, before a dramatic reading of the story of the Transfiguration from Luke's Gospel. After this came one of Wareham's favourite hymns, "Will your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life".

CANON HARDMAN prayed for "shelter from the storms of life" and then delivered a short address about a rainy day on his recent holiday in Ireland, when the mist suddenly lifted to reveal a magical view of one of the earliest Christian seaside settlements.

He related this to the story of the Transfiguration. "When we go to church and it all seems very empty, we can wonder whether God is there at all," he said. "These are the times when a cloud comes down, the times when we remember the cloud on the top of the mountain in the Transfigura-

tion. Suddenly the cloud was lifted and there was Jesus. Let us remember when the cloud descends that Jesus is there. It is just that for the moment he is hidden."

He finished with an unattributed poem from a prayer card bought in Dublin: "God has not promised us skies always blue... God has not promised sun without rain, joy without sorrow, peace without pain," and ended with the hope that the many visitors had enjoyed "the sunshine in our hearts".

• The last Quayside Praise this summer is on the Quay at Wareham at 5pm tomorrow.

Quayside Praise. The Quay, Wareham, Dorset (0929 552684)

WORSHIP LEADERS: Canon Peter Hardman of the Church of England's Lady St Mary and the Rev Daphne Hull of the United Reformed Church, Wareham.

ARCHITECTURE: Worship against a backdrop of sunshine, fluffy clouds and pale blue sky over the quaint Wareham quayside on the river Frome.***

MUSIC: Wareham's 40-piece brass and read town band led by bandmaster Eddie Byron.***

SERMON: Two talks on the themes of the Transfiguration, the cloud which overshadowed Jesus on the mountain and the clouds which threatened to overshadow our service at any moment.***

LITURGY: Hymns interspersed with brief prayers and a reading.***

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Ice-cream served up with the band, followed by tea and scones at any one of the numerous cafes around and a peaceful walk into the sunset over Studland Bay.***

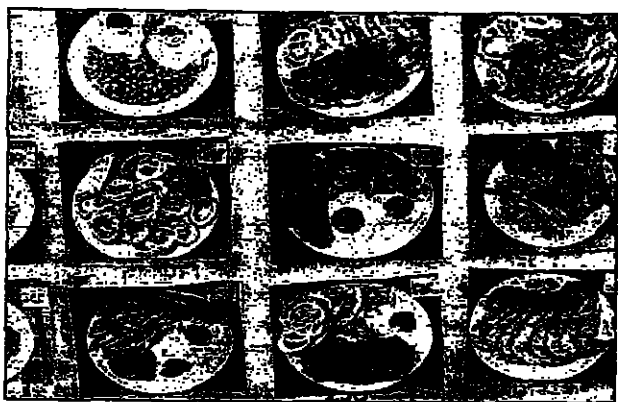
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Like sunlight shining in a dark world.***

COVER STORY

3

39

'Tourists want something new...with chips'



The people who reign in Spain. "They aren't travellers but tourists. They don't really want to explore a country or understand a new culture." But now such holidaymakers are looking for somewhere new. Long-haul, with chips, may be the answer

Continued from page 1
visitors a day are allowed, in groups of 40 ten minutes apart. So instead of the scrums of Paris, Rome, Venice or Florence, the visitor can experience in some sort of solitude the eerie, awe-inspiring mysteries of the Cro-Magnon paintings of bulls, horses and reindeer copied from the original cave. As we waited outside Lascaux 2 on the first day of our holiday I sneered at "crude" tourist attractions. It was a snobbish comment what I quickly regretted.

The horror of Sarlat and the joy of Lascaux raised in microcosm the provoking questions increasingly posed by modern tourism. As we "travel" more often and more widely, is each of us destroying what we seek to see? As aeroplanes get bigger and fares cheaper, will there be any secret places left in the world — any native cultures left uncorrupted — by the year 2000? Are all charter holidays going to be in sanitised tourist ghettos on coastal strips away from any contact with the local cultures that are surely the reason for travelling? Can the world sustain so much tourism?

Tourism already outstrips petroleum and electronics as the world's largest industry, and it will grow even faster over the next 20 years. The statistics are mind-boggling. Ten years ago Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, took a million Britons on holidays abroad. This summer it has taken a million to the Balearics alone, and

another two million on holidays elsewhere. There were 450 million tourists in 1990, according to the World Tourism Organisation. There will be 650 million by the year 2000 and a billion by 2010. Within six years there will be six million tourists a year in Africa, another million British tourists in the Americas, another 600,000 in East Asia and the Pacific.

About 30 million Britons went to the Continent this year. Within six years there will be seven million more — plus ten million more Germans and two million more Japanese. What will happen to Sarlat and Lascaux then?

What modern tourism is all about, argues Tourism Concern, a British pressure group, is growth, growth, growth and to hell with the consequences on local populations. Few of us, when we buy our holidays, understand the damage we do: the rape of the environment, the pollution, the extra tons of sewage, the thousands of local ruthlessly displaced for new hotels, beaches and golf courses. Many Gypsies living only yards from the tourist strips are now desperate for water because tourists want two or three showers a day.

Yet, as the big tour operators argue back, it is national governments that determine whether the growth of tourism to their countries is rationed or expanded. Thirty years ago Spain let tourism rip but Menorca decided to limit hotels and concentrate on building a British Shangri La of



After the Lascaux cave, in France, closed because of the harm caused by too many visitors, a replica cave was built to include paintings using the same colours and techniques of 15,000 years ago — animal fat and juniper twigs

bungalows in the sun. The Seychelles limits capacity to preserve elite appeal. It does not allow charters, a policy also adopted by Mauritius. As Britons bored by Spain and Greece and Florida start searching for new destinations, and as the over-fifties with money to spend roam the world, the two fastest growing destinations for British Airways Holidays are Antigua, Mauritius, Grenada, Malaysia, Thailand, the Seychelles, Hong Kong, Bali, Singapore and Kenya. Roger Heape, the managing director of BAH, says this is because long-haul holidays are increasingly better value for money, with BA clients, using scheduled flights, spending on average about £1,350 per person for two weeks in the Caribbean — a market that will grow by 65

per cent for BA this year. As the pessimist fears for such exotic destinations, the main issue for the future, Mr Heape says, is how strictly the expanding tourist nations control capacity, especially for charter-flight holidays. Many upmarket operators share his worry that such holidays may encourage unrealistic expectations that lead to disappointment. The Cayman Islands is now allowing charters — but how many of the new tourists, encouraged by cheap fares to this new destination, realise that breakfast, lunch and dinner for a family of four may cost them an extra £150 a day?

It is snobbish and politically incorrect to say so but we know, don't we, what's wrong with charters? They bring in a lower class, bucket-and-spade sort of person at discount prices. They aren't travellers but tourists. They don't really want to explore a country or understand a new culture, but they've done Europe and seen the video and now want something new but safe, and chips with everything. They also need vast hotels that destroy the beauty of a place.

Yet why shouldn't the masses enjoy a Thomson charter to Thailand (£509 per person, B&B, for two weeks, significantly cheaper than my week in France), Sri Lanka (£499), the Caribbean, Kenya or the Dominican Republic? Long-haul holidays are big business for Thomson, which has 2,000 clients a week in the Dominican Republic and two charters a week to Kenya and (from the autumn) Thailand.

So tourism may yet do to Africa and the Caribbean, Thailand and Malaysia, what it has done to Spain and parts of Greece. Their governments want the money and jobs that tourists bring in their wake, even at the expense of despoiling areas of natural beauty. So would Britain if we were as poor as them.

When you ask tour operators whether such growth could be harmful they tend to dodge the import of the inquiry and avoid the answer "Yes", though that must inevitably be what the answer is. So as tourism grows, the consequence for travellers and tourists will be a split between the posh and the peasants. The posh will pay premium prices for small, self-rationing islands, scheduled flights to

ever more exotic destinations and self-catering gite and villa holidays where there is space and peace. The masses will pay discount, charter prices for hotels on golden but crowded beaches, with occasional forays inland.

Majorca is a good example of how the two types of tourism can co-exist. The 20-year-olds who want to drink all night, bonk till dawn, sleep all noon and lie on a beach for the afternoon will stay on the coastal strip at Magaluf or Palma Nova. The holiday-makers who want more tranquil holidays, walking or bird-watching or simply reading in the sun, will head inland and to the north, where for £400 per person they will get a three-bedroom villa for two weeks, plus swimming pool and car. The same can be said for the rest of the Balearics, Corfu, Crete and Rhodes, Jamaica and the bigger islands of the world.

So where should travellers go to avoid the masses? The answer in the Caribbean is the smaller islands — Anguilla, St Kitts, Montserrat, Nevis and the Grenadines. In Africa, it is Botswana's Okavanga Delta, the Selous and Ruaha areas of Tanzania or Luangwa and Kafue in Zambia, or Uganda, Mozambique and Namibia. Avoid Phuket and Pattaya in Thailand, try Krabi or the islands.

Another tip is to follow students, who hunt out new, adventurous destinations. Until recently, Vietnam was the trendiest place for the Student Travel Association (STA). Now it is Cambodia, Laos, Namibia, the Comoros islands, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Tasmania, Madagascar, Samoa, Uganda, Lisbon and Hydra in Greece.

Yet how long will it be before these destinations, too, become overwhelmed by tourists. Some — Namibia, Costa Rica, Uganda — may be big enough to cope. The smaller ones will probably be self-rationing by their size.

But still the questions nag. With all those millions of extra tourists roaming the world in 15 years' time, will travel still

be a worthwhile experience? Will some countries be forced to ration access? What will be the fate of Sarlat? Will it be forced to ration entry, or will the tourists, deterred by the crush, stay away, or visit only in spring or autumn?

France is so big that it can cope, and it attracts travellers with an exploring spirit who tend to make their own arrangements. Even in August, most of Périgord remains unspoiled: Bourdelles, Brantôme, Bergerac, Montignac were all still the enchanting France we know and love.

The policy of the French government, anxious to retain a reputation for quality, is to push tourism away from the coast and into areas where it will stimulate local economies. Spain, too, is pushing tourism into the still unspoiled delights that can be found inland.

But I still worry. Don't you?

Cover photograph of market day in Sarlat-la-Canéda by BRUNO BARBEY/MAGNUM. Feature photographs: MAGNUM/KATZ/IMAGE BANK

A package-holiday tourist slates tour operators and reps who create a 'Little England' abroad

When travel narrows the mind

My experience of the "welcome meeting" on the first morning of package holidays is that they are invariably disconcerting affairs. The rep will answer questions about the tour company and its holiday with a reassuring air, but if you seek details about the country itself the rep turns panicky.

Earlier this year, when I was visiting Cyprus, I mentioned to the rep that I wanted to visit the northern, Turkish, part of the island. She told me this was absolutely impossible, not least because her tour company didn't arrange trips there. By chance, two other people wanted to travel north, and pointed out that the "Blue Guide" says it is possible to get a tourist pass for a day at a certain hotel in Nicosia. The rep conceded that, yes, she had heard about this, but they often decided not to issue them, and you had to be there at exactly 8am — and anyway (playing her trump card) if

they stamped your passport you wouldn't be allowed out of the country. (Neither I nor the others heeded her warnings and got passes late in the morning, with no stamps on our passports.)

The rep returned to her patter: our resort was well equipped, she said, but if we wanted to see an authentic Greek village, there was one just a few miles down the road. This seemed a bit unlikely, especially when it turned out that it had a branch of "Marks and Spencer" which we "might find useful". As our hotel served only the likes of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, we mused that buying M&S mince and taramasalata might be our only chance of getting any Greek food.

In Sorrento the year before, our rep caused just as much disgust. She led my group to believe that Italy was a dangerous place unless we put ourselves in her hands. Any-one wanting to go to Naples on



Herd tourism at work on a package trip in Venice

their own was left in fear for their lives; we were told we would almost certainly be robbed if we ventured away from the tour party. Even hiring a car was a hazardous undertaking, she explained, raising her eyes to the ceiling and sighing, "Italian Drivers". How do the tour operators and their reps get away with this misinformation?

We watched with astonishment at how many of our fellow travellers went on organised tours which were greatly overpriced, and managed to avoid most places of interest, concentrating instead on duty-free shops. We could only conclude that these British people were scared of going abroad, and were happy only if they stayed in the "Little England" that the tour operator created for them.

I have just returned from Kefallinia, off the mainland of western Greece, where our group's rep was not so much of a scaremonger, but demeaning of the Greeks. "Here they have what we call GMT, Greek Maybe Time. They have no idea of how to keep to timetables. If you want to be sure to get anywhere, you had better stick with us".

She didn't put the fear of God into us for going to the Peloponnese on our own for a few days, but what surprised us was that the others on the tour regarded us warily for stepping out of line. We didn't say we were going, but when

we returned, everyone in the little English suburbia knew where we had been, and asked all sorts of questions. When one man wanted to know, was there hot water on the mainland? I realised that he had no idea about the country he was in, and had been coddled in his ignorance by the tour rep.

In Egypt, my father wanted to visit a place that could not be reached by car, so he borrowed a farmer's donkey. As he trotted along, a busload of British tourists stopped to take photographs of him — as a typical peasant.

As we were bade "goodbye" at the airport after our Greek trip, the rep said she hoped we had enjoyed our holiday with the tour company. Not in Greece, but with them. When some of our holiday companions discussed the country on the return journey it was in terms of how clean the lavatories were; was the food dangerous, and did they rip you off in the shops? — an insular attitude to anything outside Britain which had been encouraged all by the tour operator.

I was left thinking that, far from travel broadening the mind, all it seems to do is reinforce prejudices. Many return home with even more bizarre ideas about foreigners.

ELIZABETH BRICE

Travel, pages 20-23

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ALL SEATS £9

No joke without beer money

This column has been declared an Edinburgh-free zone by the Society for Keeping Arts-Page Readers Safe. So I won't even name the ancient Scottish city in which the Cambridge Footlights were performing this month when their president made his bid for the Luvvies' Whinge of the Year Award.

The young fellow moaned that the 110-year-old Footlights could "disappear in its present form" because its sponsor for the past five years, Holsten Pils, had withdrawn its support. "Without the chance to perform professionally we are just another student club," he apparently sobbed plaintively to a reporter.

Am I missing something here? Is sponsorship from a beer company now obligatory before a few whingeing undergraduates — all of them hankering after careers in showbiz — will get up on stage and perform their comic turns? I am pretty sure that Peter Cook, John Cleese and Alan Bennett didn't need sponsorship from Holsten Pils back in the golden age of undergraduate humour. In fact, I am not even

certain that anybody had heard of Holsten Pils then. "Sponsorship" used to be something that you gave to schoolchildren who were planning to swim 900,000 consecutive lengths of the municipal baths for charity.

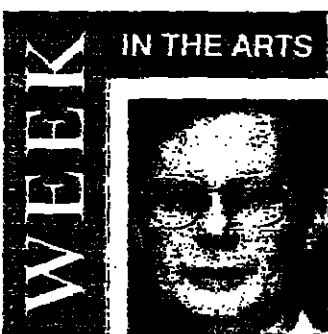
Actually, I do not blame the Footlights for panicking. They are in a viciously competitive field. When pundits declare comedy to be the "rock'n'roll of the Nineties", they usually mean that it has the kind of cult following among the young that was once reserved for hairy men with guitars. Equally, however, it could mean that the slick promoters in sharp suits have moved in as ruthlessly on the burgeoning comedy circuit as they formerly did on the rock clubs.

These days, a comedy act must be controlled, packaged, targeted and marketed like a brand of washing powder if it is to have any chance of success. No place here

for amateurs. Gone forever are the days when a modestly talented Footlights performer could drift almost by accident into global fame and a vast fortune. In fact, if David Frost were starting today, he would probably not even get his foot on the first rung of the ladder.

Come to think of it, things have improved considerably.

It was only last year that the musical world was in turmoil because the Arts Council had decided that there were too many London orchestras. That's hard to believe now, especially if you examine the Festival Hall's bizarre summer schedule. In July there was just one concert by a London orchestra in Britain's (supposedly) premier classical venue. In August not a single London orchestra will appear. September? Well, nothing for a fortnight. Then the Royal Philharmonic staggers back.



RICHARD MORRISON

Strangely, the South Bank has announced that it is hiring advertising whizzkids to "raise the profile" of its classical events. What events? Between August 13 and September 10 the Festival Hall is dark, apart from two nights of pop singer Lyle Lovett.

Yes, I know that the Proms are on at the Albert Hall. But it does seem odd that the London orchestras — supposedly locked in mortal combat for the same audience, sponsors and subsidy — should all vacate their prime battleground for 11 solid weeks.

There is something even odder. The South Bank Board received a £13.4 million subsidy this year, ostensibly because it is presenting programmes that are too challenging for commercial promoters to contemplate. Yet this summer the Festival Hall has been virtually turned over to such ventures as the JVC Capital Radio Jazz Parade, the "American South" festival of gospel, country and cajun music, and a season of popular ballet.

All admirable entertainments, no doubt. But if the Festival Hall was to be handed over to an unsubsidised West End promoter it would surely not make a

semiquaver of difference to the summer music programme. Then that £13.4 million subsidy could be spent on better things. Just to put it in perspective: £13.4 million is equivalent to the Royal Philharmonic's grant for the next 44 years.

After the multiplex cinema, stand by for the "megaplex". In Texas (where else?) they are building the world's biggest "entertainment destination". Too big, you note, to be called a cinema. It will have 24 movie screens, but that's only the start. It will include golf ranges, virtual-reality centres, bouncy castles, food courts and every other "leisure essential" of the modern age. This is the shape — or rather the size — of things to come.

These fun-packed monsters will be swallowing the British landscape before long, or my name's Arnold Schwarzenegger. But Brit-

ain doesn't have the space of Texas. The thought of our town centres being demolished to make way for "entertainment destinations" into which entire populations would disappear each weekend, is worse than anything imagined by Orwell.

Perhaps, however, we could modify the trend: make it a bit more civilised and British. What if Mo Mowlam, Labour's shadow Heritage Secretary, had her way, and the royal family gave up living in Buckingham Palace? Wouldn't that make a smashing megaplex? The great state rooms would convert into wonderful cinemas. Those long corridors could be turned into fabulous bowling alleys. The famous paintings would provide a little light education for children tired of playing on the "bouncy four-posters".

And instead of virtual-reality, there would be unique new "virtual-royalty arcades". Local residents would go inside to learn how to use phone boxes and parking meters, and a *Daily Mail* journalist would be on hand afterwards to ask them how they felt.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

IAN BOSTRIDGE

Profession: Singer and scholar. To concert-goers, an unusually promising tenor, already drawing rare superlatives from every critic in the business. But also a gifted historian, currently engaged on research into witchcraft 1600-1800.

Age: 29.

Up and Running: Lysander in Australian Opera's production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Edinburgh (see review, right). Finishing his book on witchcraft.

Fortcoming: Britten's *Michael Angelo* Sonnets and canticle *Still Falls the Rain* at Aldeburgh's October Britten Festival; Sellern in *The Rake's Progress* with Seiji Ozawa at the 1995 Saito Kinen Festival. Forthcoming recordings of Britten's *Dream* with LSO and Colin Davis.

History: Sang in Strathgrym church choir from the age of six. "No, I never sang in cathedrals, and was never a choral scholar." But, at the age of 13, he trod the boards with Janet Baker at the Coliseum as one of the children in *Werther*, and started singing Lieder and Mozart opera in earnest while at university. He read history at Oxford, took a Masters in the history and philosophy of science at Cambridge, then back to Oxford for a D Phil. Then his work as an assistant producer with Channel 4 included their programme on crop-circles, "and very



nearly one on my hero, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, but unfortunately that fell through..."

First Professional Gigs: Mozart's *Zaide* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Wigmore Hall debut in April 1993; first recording in of the Hyperion Schubert Edition.

Musical Priorities: Lieder, Bach (Evangelist in the *Passions*) and Mozart opera.

Regrets: "That I never learnt to play the piano. But perhaps I shouldn't be too pessimistic about the possibility of remedying that."

To Relax: "I never relax. But I love going to picture galleries. Most weekends my wife [book reviewer and author Lucia Miller] and I go to Kenwood, walking on the Heath." And reading: "I'm halfway through Sch's *A Suitable Boy*."

Prospects: In his heart of hearts: a performer, who wants to carry on writing. And, with his record, he may just succeed.

HILARY FINCH

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: Rodney Milnes applauds a Britten staging from Australian Opera

Enchanted by the British Raj

A Midsummer Night's Dream Festival Theatre

PORTRAITS of George V and Queen Mary adorn the stage boxes of the Festival Theatre. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra in scarlet military tunics occupies the bandstand centre stage. Beneath it swirl the dark waters whence the fairies — or in this case Indian deities — will emerge. Its roof is Oberon's domain.

The Viceroy's party enters, and Baz Luhrmann's British Raj production of Britten's *Dream* is underway. It is an evening of pure enchantment, and one can scarcely begrudge the Australian Opera — on its first tour north of the equator — for scooping the £40,000 Festival Prize before the show had even opened.

There have been some changes since it was new in Sydney last year. There is less jungle around the bandstand, the pool edges look neater, the lilies a touch regimented, the fairy lights and stars over-insistent. The production looks less dangerous, verges even upon the suburban.

But what suburbs! The riot of colour in the designs by Catherine Martin and Bill Marron are a feast for eyes accustomed to the overall greyness still afflicting so much European opera production. Ghastly Good Taste is a commodity unknown in Australia, saints be praised. The comedy, too, is broader,



Michael Chance as Oberon and Tyler Coppin as Puck in Baz Luhrmann's Australian Opera staging of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

but so funny that only the most determined snigger could demur. What the Lion does to an only mildly protesting Thisbe is not to be described in a family newspaper, and the hirsute, much scratched lower parts of Bottom-as-monster will doubtless cause pursed lips in the tea-rooms of Morningside.

Puck (Tyler Coppin) has become too epicurean, and the involvement of his two doubles in the lovers' quarrel is perhaps too much of the good

thing. But these are matters of fine tuning.

Having the orchestra on stage establishes ideally close contact between singers and players, not that you ever catch any of the former glancing at the conductor. Roderick Brydon, an experienced Britten conductor, leads a superb performance, always keeping the piece on the move and giving the sensuousness of the score full rein. In his hands and the larynx of Michael Chance (Oberon), "I know a

bank" was a moment you wanted to last for ever. This is not an evening of especially distinguished singing, but it does have a marvellous sense of ensemble, something we are starting seriously to miss in these straitened times here. The soloists work together to exhilarating effect, and throw themselves energetically into vivid characterisations.

Ian Bostridge (a second UK guest with the company) starts as a deliciously chinless Ly-

sander on whom Oberon's dope has a quite amazing effect; Elisa Wilson's Helena, with jodhpurs, marcelled hair, gig-lamps and an utterly authentic liberty-bodice, is an unforgettable creation; Kirsti Harms's vocally spruce Hermia and Paul Whelan's Demetrius, as military of voice as of bearing, are no less memorable.

Gary Rowley (Bottom), light of voice but wonderfully solemn of demeanour, leads the *It Ain't Half Hot, Mum*

amateur dramatics — horribly reminiscent of every army pantomime I ever took part in — with vigorous support from Michael Martin's Flute/Thisbe (in a wig that must once have graced Dame Joan Sutherland herself) and Richard Alexander's dozy Snug/Lion. What looked like a full regiment of fairies sang and acted with admirable discipline. A lovely evening: even as I write, queues will surely be forming for return for the last performance tonight.

THE TIMES - NPI

PASSPORT TO HISTORIC HOUSES

SPECIAL EVENTS

'A STITCH IN TIME'

Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire, is the venue for an exhibition entitled 'A Stitch in Time' until Sunday 2nd October. Each year Lady Victoria Leatham stages an exhibition highlighting one aspect of the magnificent collection at Burghley House.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a tapestry woven at Mordake in 1670, a version of the famous design known as 'Boys Playing in the Trees', by the Renaissance artist Giulio Romano, rediscovered after at least a century spent rolled up in a box. Also on display will be an important group of works that illustrate the techniques of embroidery, exquisite English and Continental lace and a panel of fine Chinese hand-painted silk gauze.



FINLAYSTONE

Taking place in the beautiful grounds of Finlaystone, Leamthorpe, Leicestershire, on 3rd and 4th September, is the Celtic Arts and Crafts Festival. The Festival, now in its fifth year, features a unique focus on work in the Celtic and Pictish idiom. Visitors are also able to enjoy a rich and varied programme of other attractions, including musicians and Celtic Face Painting.

Finlaystone, home of the Earls of Glencairn for four centuries, is now the seat of the Chief of Clan MacMillan. The house has a great past, with many famous historical figures, including Burns and Knox, having walked the rooms and grounds.

Outside visitors have the chance to enjoy the sweeping lawns and majestic trees, relax in the walled garden, and discover the walks, waterfalls and shelter in the woodland.

Admission (Celtic Arts & Crafts Fair): adults £1.50 children/OAPs £1.00

Opening times: 11am-5pm

Times-NPI Passport holders have been offered two for the price of one admission for adults.

Details: 0475 540285

The "NPI Treasures of Britain" campaign, sponsored by penicillin specialist NPI, in association with *The Times*, aims to widen interest in the preservation of Britain's heritage with specific reference to Britain's historic homes.

The campaign includes 'The Times-NPI Passport to Historic Houses' which allows *Times* readers special concessions at 50 of Britain's most renowned historic houses.

NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN



SUPPORTED BY THE TIMES

PROMS 1994: A compelling performance of Mahler

Magnificence on every side

Berlin PO/Abbado
Albert Hall/Radio 3

ONLY once before at the Proms have I heard Mahler played as wonderfully as the Berlin Philharmonic played the Ninth Symphony on Thursday under Claudio Abbado. That was seven years ago, when Bernstein mesmerised the Albert Hall with a performance of the Fifth that was something else altogether.

This was something else again. Abbado, who has his distant moods, here seemed passionately engaged with the music and with his magnificent players. Flexibility is too prosaic a word to describe how he made this symphony ebb and flow, rage and seduce, make love and then make peace. Some 5,000 people hardly dared to breathe at the end, and not simply because of the utter perfection of the pianissimo string playing in that great Adagio of last rites and bleak voids.

Much of what had gone before had been tremendous fun — which seems odd when you consider that this is a symphony in which the hollow rattle of death is never entirely absent from the orchestration. But Mahler's score is, not

least, a colossal challenge to virtuoso orchestras, and here was one — perhaps the greatest of them all — in which every department seemed impatient to blaze its brilliance.

The impression of extraordinary power pouring in from every corner of the platform gave the Rondo-Burleske and the big tunis of the first movement a surging, extrovert quality. Abbado also encouraged his brass players to emphasise the grotesque muted notes and trills that pierce the textures like sharp and ominous pains.

Never, however, did the interpretation sound like a mere display of orchestral prowess. There was an overriding vision. At the turbulent heart of the Rondo, and again in the Adagio, Abbado suddenly dispelled the anguish to reveal a musical twilight of monastic calm. That was masterly. So was the control he exerted in the Ländler, where each new dance was sharply characterised, and yet the unity of the whole preserved. The orchestra followed him with an exuberance that suggested not compliance but a fierce approval. A great partnership. A great concert.

RICHARD MORRISON



Abbado: superb control

THE SUNDAY TIMES

He may once have been just an actor, but Jack Nicholson is now principally a Talking Point. He is like the English weather or Law and Order; something a columnist can always rely on to get the wordage pumping and the controversy coming. More specifically, he is the not-so-secret weapon of bitter, low-earning, misogynistic men who have decided that the pen is mightier than the penis (bigger, too, in their case) when it comes to conducting a few guerrilla raids in the ongoing dirty little uncivil sex war.

Julie Burchill on why she disapproves of the too brutal, too sexist star of *Wolf* — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

BBC PROMS 94
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The Cleveland Orchestra

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Dvořák Symphony No 9
'From the New World'
Sir Harrison Birtwistle Earth Dances
Ives Central Park in the Dark

Sunday 28 August, 8.00pm
Mahler Symphony No 1 in D major
Stravinsky Violin Concerto
Bach orch Webern Ricercar a 6
from 'The Metaphysical Offering'
Christian Tetzlaff violin

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ARTS

NEW ON VIDEO: Dark emotion from Merchant Ivory; a genie steals the show

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Jones social comedy after its deserved
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Smith 12.00. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Now
previews. 7.45pm. UIC 12.00.

THE CRYPTID Lincay
Duncan and Eddie Lacey in a hilarious
play about an adult relationship
fantasy but a little bit of a stage play.
Ambassadors, West End. Mon-Sat,
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GISMODO OF SALERNO IN
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A new musical. With a new
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HELL AND OTHER TALES
A new musical. With a new
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JUGGLE AND HYDE The Flying
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KING LEAR Christopher Robbe
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Barbican, Silk Street. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.
Sun, 3.30pm. UIC 12.00.

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN
Another adaptation of a novel.
Wilde from Philip Prowse. Fine acting.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment
of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
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Hoggin stars in the ageing film. A
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A cast of six recreates the songs of
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KING LEAR Christopher Robbe
steps into Robert Stephens's shoes in
Adrian Noble's brilliant production.
Barbican, Silk Street. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.
Sun, 3.30pm. UIC 12.00.

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN
Another adaptation of a novel.
Wilde from Philip Prowse. Fine acting.

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY

Columbia TriStar, U. 1993
JAMES Ivory's directing style
has always been fastidious to a
fault, and the conjunction of his
emotional reserve with the but-
toned-up style of Kazuo
Ishiguro's novel results in a film
where the character's inertia can
drive you up the wall. As
compensation, Anthony Hop-
kins is always watchable as the
ostich-like butler to James Fox's
Nazi appeaser; while Emma
Thompson injects a little fire as
the mansion's trusty housekeep-
er. Available to rent.

ALADDIN
Buena Vista, U. 1993
THANK heavens for the Genie,
voiced by Robin Williams: other-
wise there would be too much
irkome comedy, below-average
songs and sappy romance in
Disney's popular extravaganza.
The following blue shape mimics
everything from Jack Nicholson
to a lightbulb, and the animators
keep in perfect sync with Wil-
liams's verbal gymnastics. Over-
all a lesser achievement than
Beauty and the Beast, though
box-office receipts tell a different
story.

AMERICAN MADNESS
Columbia TriStar, U. 1932
IN THE teeth of the Great
Depression, a robbery triggers a
run on Walter Huston's New
York bank, which champions the
small investor. Frank Capra.
Columbia's fast-rising star direc-
tor, shows his mettle in the
sweep of crowd panic, while
Robert Riskin fills the script with
the populist ideas featured in *Mr*
Deeds Goes to Town and other
later classics. Quaint at times,
but always enjoyable.

HEAVEN AND EARTH
Warner, 15, 1993
THE Vietnam War and its
aftermath, as experienced by a
peasant girl who finds her saviour
in an American sergeant.
Since the sergeant is played by
Tommy Lee Jones, their mar-
riage soon turns rocky; since the
film is boorishly directed by
Oliver Stone, big speeches and
crude melodrama destroy any
hopes of a sensitive response to
the complex issues. Stunning land-
scapes, supplied by Thailand,
ease some of the pain.

SIEGFRIED
Tartan, U. 1924
GERMAN silent cinema does
not get more grandiose than the
first part of Fritz Lang's version
of *"Die Nibelungen"*. Everything
comes giant-sized: the forests, the
palaces, the dragon that Siegf-
ried slays. The daunting scale
makes this a difficult film to

Anthony Hopkins, as the butler, with Emma Thompson, the trusty housekeeper, in *The Remains of the Day*

GIRL SHY
Cannes, U. 1934
SO SHY, in fact, that he shrinks
and stutters whenever a girl
comes near. Harold Lloyd's
characterisation in this 1924
comedy is a little wearing at
times, but the film redeems any
faults with a splendid chase
finale as Harold races by
car, truck, horse, fire engine and
trolley car to save the hero-
ine from marrying the wrong
man.

THE VIRGIN SPRING
Tartan, U. 1960
INGMAR Bergman's stark,
compelling 14th-century drama
about the rape and murder of a
peasant's daughter, and an unex-
pected chance for revenge. Sym-
bolic images run rife, from fire
and water to a passing raven.
But they blend together in a
simple folk story told, set in a
lovingly detailed medieval
landscape. With Max von
Sydow, Birgitta Valberg.

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The Genie, with Robin Williams's voice, in *Aladdin*

Switch on to widescreen

The television set is about to undergo its biggest transformation since the coming of colour

The announcement, a week or two ago, reached only the inner pages of most newspapers. If you saw it, you may have thought "more gimmicks" and passed on; or you may not have noticed it at all. But what it means is that the television in your living room is now a chrysalis, gathering itself for the most radical transformation since the coming of colour more than a quarter of a century ago. With funding from the EU, and from the quality Finnish TV manufacturers Nokia, Channel 4 is launching the first terrestrial broadcasts in the PALplus system, bringing widescreen television into our homes — 500 hours of it over 18 months, beginning very soon. Sources close to Channel 4 are cagey, but suggest that next month's Live '94 show at Earls Court may be worth a visit.

Widescreen television as such has been around for a while. I saw my first real widescreen set in early 1990, in — of all places — the hideous Stalinist Palace of Culture in Warsaw, the market-hungry Japanese had lent one to the Poles. In this country, as you might expect, widescreen television has so far been the preserve of the characters

with Alex Cox T-shirts and home popcorn generators, the really dedicated Home Cinema buffs who watch chiefly widescreen laserdiscs or videos. You might think that it could easily stay that way; for what difference will it really make if our picture is no longer a quasi-square with sides in the ratio 4:3, but a cinematic 16:9 oblong?

You might be surprised. Go into an art gallery. Intimate scenes and portraits fare best in square images, but naturalistic landscapes, and others that seek to convey an appearance of scale and depth, tend strongly towards the oblong. The landscapes of Caspar David Friedrich, for example, are surprisingly small, physically, for the airy grandeur they convey; part of their effect is in their proportions. The wider lateral leads the eye inward and suggests the panoramic. Research has confirmed what the painters knew instinctively: that the wider image

reflects human perceptions. We find it more natural, and more relaxing. There will be more tangible benefits, too. Most films these days are made in widescreen, and they can only be shown on today's television by "letterboxing" them in a strip across the centre, which shrinks and distances the image (infuriating many viewers); or by the commoner "pan-and-scan" technique, in which the television image roams like the eye over the wider picture, centring on the most relevant details. This still loses a lot of space and detail, and can create a queasy, seasick effect. Widescreen will show almost everything but Cinema intact.

Other programming will gain too — sport, for example — as much as it did from colour. For games such as football and rugby a wider expanse of pitch will be visible from closer in, capturing more of the play at once. In horseracing much more of the field will

fit into one shot, and more of the course for motor racing. Drama series, such as *Prime Suspect 2*, are already being filmed in widescreen. The arts will also benefit, giving opera, for example, a more natural stage image — English National Opera's recent *Peter Grimes* would have been ideal. Fine art programmes such as *The Royal Collection*, nature and documentary programmes — the marvellous *Beyond the Clouds*, for example — are all being made in widescreen, to gain from its greater visual freedom.

If you're not yet convinced, there's no hurry to change. PALplus is just an extension of the PAL system our televisions use now, so our ordinary sets will display widescreen images in letterbox format. This makes it more conservative than the new all-digital broadcast systems the BBC is committed to introducing, with innumerable advances such as high definition and surround sound. But such systems are many years away — at least the lifetime of a good television — a first gleam of wings within the old shell.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Doomed lovers, power-mad murderers and knockabout comedians — Shakespeare had them all, and they are all on offer this week

All's fair for love and war

THEATRE CLUB

LAST week's Theatre Club participation in the Fair on the Square in London's West End was quite a success. More than 300 existing and new members took part in the club's competition, which was won by Ella Darrington, from Wakefield in West Yorkshire. Her prize is two tickets for the hit musical *Copacabana*, as well as dinner before the show at the Hampshire Hotel in Leicester Square. The fair itself, Theatreland's traditional chance to let its hair down in aid of various charities, raised £5,000.

This week's special offers shift the focus away from London, and on to productions of Shakespeare's plays. Still the most performed playwright in the world, Shakespeare's tragedies, comedies and historical plays have provided the basis for a myriad of operas, ballets, several Broadway musicals and even a spaghetti western, while providing the ultimate test for an actor's skill. To book, ring the box-office number at the end of each item, quoting your membership number

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

MANCHESTER
Royal Exchange
Sep 13
● DENYS Hawthorn takes the part of Julius Caesar in Shakespeare's historical drama, with Patrick O'Kane as Brutus, Danny Sapani as Mark Anthony and Robert Gwilym as Cassius. Theatre Club members can buy tickets at half-price (normally £10.60, £12.50 and £16.60) and enjoy a glass of wine with the cast after the performance. Tel 061-833 9833

MOLD
Theatre Chyd
Sep 8-Oct 8
● TIMOTHY West is Macbeth and Alexandra Mathie his ambitious wife in Shakespeare's magnificent tragedy, a spellbinding cocktail of ambition and fear. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normal prices £7 to £15) for Tuesday to Friday performances and Saturday matinees. Tel 0352 755114

BIRMINGHAM
Repertory Theatre
Sep 16-17, 22-24
● IN *The Tempest* a group of travellers is shipwrecked on an island by a storm conjured



One doomed anti-hero, one doomed heroine — Timothy West is tackling Macbeth, while Gina Bellman is playing Ophelia. See listings for Mold and Reading respectively

up by the sorcerer Prospero. Confronting them with their past betrayals of him, Prospero achieves justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. Members can save £2 on top-price tickets (normally £13.50 and £15.50). Tel 021-236 4455

BRISTOL
Old Vic
Sep 29, Oct 3-6
● SHIPWRECKED twins, a lovesick Count and a veiled lady are hurled into a helter-

skelter world of mistaken identities in the romantic comedy *Twelfth Night*. Theatre Club members can save £3 on top-price tickets (normally £13.50 and £17). Tel 0272 250250

GLASGOW
Citizens
Sep 28
● TAG presents Shakespeare's all-time great variety show

ARTS

7

NEW RECORDINGS: Schubert and Beethoven; daffy Gershwin; 20th-century Americana; Echobelly's pop-rock genius

CHAMBER

Hillary Finch

■ SCHUBERT/
BEETHOVEN
String Quintet/Grosse Fuge
Hagen Quartet/Schiff
DG 43974-2 ***

NOT only the playing, but the rare and rewarding coupling of repertoire make this latest disc from the Hagen Quartet highly recommendable. Both Schubert's great Quintet in C major and Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* were late, visionary works, written in Vienna within three years of each other.

Schubert writes more in sorrow than in anger yet, particularly with the dark, vehement performance given to the quintet's last movement here, Beethoven seems to rage on where Schubert leaves off.

The Hagen, sympathetically joined by Heinrich Schiff, seem to hear the quintet's opening movement in the wider context of the work's eternity-scaled slow movement. Not only do they give time and space for long, unhurried fluctuations of resonance and dynamics, but they close the distance between the two movements by bringing their tempi closer together.

This is done entirely convincingly so that when the wide horizons of the *Adagio* come into view, the underlying pulse of the music corresponds marvellously to the natural human inhalation and exhalation of breath.

The hefty country dance of a Scherzo prepares us for the uncompromisingly muscular playing of the *Grosse Fuge*. The Hagen, like Beethoven himself, push their instruments to the limits of technique and sound, as transformation takes on transformation within this single quartet movement which seems to contain the whole of Beethoven's world.

■ SCHUMANN/
BRAHMS
Piano Quintets
Artis Quartet/Stefan Vladar
Sony SK 58954 ***

TWO outstanding chamber music releases in one month is luxury indeed. The programming here is nothing exceptional: the Schumann Op 44 and Brahms Op 34 Quintets are natural and familiar soulmates. The Artis Quartet and pianist Stefan Vladar play them, though, as if they are still reeling from the delighted shock of discovery.

They seize the moment at the start of the Schumann, the four opening chords decisive and impatient to be on their way. This playing is shrewdly balanced by the determined character of the last movement.

The Brahms was originally conceived as a string quintet, then reduced to a sonata for two pianos before Clara Schumann told the composer that there were enough ideas to be poured out over an entire orchestra. The Artis have the wisdom to select and scale all there is in this musical cornucopia, so that it never sounds overloaded. Playing like this shows that, when it is properly understood, there can be nothing as new as old music.

Barry Millington

■ BRUCKNER
Symphony No 9 in D Minor
NDR SO/Wand
RCA Victor Red Seal 09026
62650-2 ***

THE working methods of the veteran German conductor Günter Wand are well known: long preparation and painstakingly detailed rehearsal, culminating in a performance to treasure. Wand, now in his eighties, does not give too many performances, but each one is of potentially archival value. Happily RCA, which



The Hagen Quartet: pushing their instruments to the limits of technique and sound

has now recorded seven of Bruckner's symphonies under Wand's baton, was on hand to capture for posterity this 1993 Hamburg performance of that mighty torso, the *Symphony No 9* in D minor.

It is a magnificent interpretation, expertly setting the architectural framework in place and equally skilfully realising the decorative detail within — the fan vaulting, the



Wand: archival value.

stained glass windows, as it were. No less surefooted is the pacing, the controlled surges of momentum, transforming what might seem to be inordinately long elaborations of unpromising material into a thrilling aesthetic experience.

Wand uses Bruckner's original version of the text, which is to say that he does not shrink from the composer at his most expansive and uncompromising. But it pays dividends in terms of the overall breadth of conception. The playing and recording set the seal on an unmissable release.

■ TCHAIKOVSKY
Children's Album/Serenade
for Strings
Moscow Virtuosi/Spivakov
RCA Victor Red Seal 09026
62650-2 ***

FOLLOWING the disastrous failure of his ill-advised marriage in 1877, and the dark works associated with this period — the Fourth Symphony and the opera *Eugene Onegin* — Tchaikovsky retreated to the family country estate at Kamenka, near Kiev. Here he took refuge in simple folk idioms and homespun miniature forms, creating the *Children's Album* of 24 easy pieces for piano.

Several of them, for example the *Mazurka*, the *Dolls' Funeral* and the *Chanson russe*, have been commandeered for beginners' albums for all manner of instruments. But now Vladimir Spivakov, violinist turned conductor of the Moscow Virtuosi, offers an orchestral transcription made by himself and Vladimir Milman. Most of the pieces last only about a minute, but each has a clearly defined identity of its own. These arrangements are faithful to the essential simplicity of the pieces, adding just the odd touch of colourful percussion.

The famous *Serenade* in C major for strings, Op 48, shows this crack ensemble on top form. Perhaps in the first movement it's all just a bit too clean, too clinical: more individual shaping of phrases is needed, more ardour. But the Waltz and the Elegy are much better.

John Higgins

■ GERSHWIN
Pardon My English
Walker/Nicastro/
Culmum/Katt
Elektra Nonesuch
7559-79338-2 (1 CD) ***

PARDON My English was one of the Gershwin's flops, running for a mere 46 nights on Broadway. It was not for want of trying. Ernst Lubitsch, no less, was going to be the director. But after he bowed out the show on the road became a "revolving-door" of scriptwriters, directors and performers — the phrase belongs to Tommy Krasker, who has masterminded this recording.

The main problem belongs to the book, which was unusually daffy even by the standards of the day. The setting is Dresden, 1933, and the hero a schizophrenic who, with the help of a few bangs on the head, alternates between being a speaky proprietor and a sophisticated man about town. Jack Buchanan was cast in the role, but was shrewd enough to buy himself out of his contract when he saw what was happening on the bumpy path to Broadway.

But George Gershwin obliged with some neat parodies of the central European style of Romberg and Kalman and a handful of top numbers



Gershwin: neat parodies

of his own, including "The Lorelei". Ira Gershwin was given full rein for his central European couplets, notably in a duet, "Fred and Jung and Adler". "Just let us make one diagnosis: We'll know 'vas los is' could have come from no other pen. The Dresden Northwest Mounted, who inevitably always get their man, is another of the partners' happiest inventions.

The love songs are less memorable and are sung on Elektra's recording with no more than adequate charm by William Katt and Michelle Nicastro. Chief honours go to John Culmum, an old hand at this sort of thing, in charge of the Dresden Northwest, and Arnetta Walker as a nightclub moll with "A cousin in Milwaukee". No prizes for guessing that the cousin has a voice "so squawky", but still she gets the men.

■ GAY
The Beggar's Opera
Waters/Calka/Gilmore/
Cosmos
Sony SMK 6671 (1 CD) ***
A TASTE of the British musi-

cal in 1968. Toby Robertson's version of John Gay began at Cambridge and went to the Edinburgh Festival before ending up on Shaftesbury Avenue. He went for singing actors rather than acting singers and it shows in this recording, which is stronger on pace than on musical skills.

Jan Waters, as Polly Peachum, has by far the best voice in the cast and even she begins a bit breathily. Hy Hazell, who doubles as Mrs P. and the brothel-owner Mrs Trapes, also makes a good show in a couple of numbers as does James Cossins as Mr P. But Peter Gilmore, whose accent veers from Devon to Donegal, lacks class as Macheath.

Gilmore is not in the same league as Redgrave, who did it for Glyndebourne, or John Neville, who performed (with singing voice dubbed) for EMI. Both, though, were blessed with better arrangements than the pier-end orchestrations of Benjamin Pearce-Higgins.

The British musical has moved on and this issue is strictly for the nostalgic.

David Sinclair

■ JOHN MELLENCAMP
& MESHELL
NDEGECCELLO
"Wild Night"
Mercury ***

THE standout track on John Mellencamp's otherwise disappointing *Dance Naked* album, "Wild Night" is a stripped-down, spruced-up version of the old Van Morrison song (from *Tupelo Honey*).

The pairing of Mellencamp with heavyweight, funk-rap newcomer Messhell Ndegeocello is an unlikely triumph. Not only do their voices intertwine perfectly around the rootsy cut and thrust of Morrison's melody, but Messhell contributes an ear-catching bass line to the distinctively sparse arrangement. And it rocks.

Already a Top Five hit in America, the only problem is Mellencamp's invisible profile over here. Otherwise this has all the makings of a well-deserved hit.

■ THE FLAMING LIPS
"She Don't Use Jelly"
Warner Bros 9362-47759 ***
BACK in town, as regular as clockwork, for their third consecutive appearance at the Reading Festival this weekend, American cult favourites the Flaming Lips mark the occasion with the launch of another typically subversive ditty.

An oddly provocative, barely sung lyric, apparently to do with cooking ingredients, is spiced to a lazy, lolling, apart-at-the-seams slide guitar riff. The whole thing rattles along merrily enough until it gets snagged on a fake needle-caught-on-a-scratch sequence.

Like some of Frank Zappa's early singles it has a cranky, oddball charm. But frankly, any assault on our chart by this lot remains a conspicuous triumph of hope over experience.

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

■ OASIS
Definitely Maybe
CREED 169 ***

THE latest in a recent line of bands with a highly evolved talent for self-promotion, Oasis boast the kind of knuckle-headed arrogance that leaves little room for rational discussion. "We pity anybody who doesn't buy our records," singer Liam Gallagher recently proclaimed.

Not surprisingly, their debut album is not the earth-shattering experience we've been led to expect, but it does make good on some of the boasts. A brash, guitar-driven concoction in the attitude-saturated tradition of Happy Mondays and the Stone Roses. Definitely Maybe sounds fresh and modern while shamelessly borrowing from the lodestone of popular music history.

The opening track, a typically laddish knockabout called "Rock 'n' Roll Star", sets the tone. A big mesh of noisy guitars and slobbish vocals in a Motown Hoople vein, it gives way to the rather more orderly pop-rock sound of "Shakermaker", which offers a surly nod in the direction of the Beatles.

From there it's plain and at times predictable sailing through a string of songs which have either been hits — "Live Forever", "Supersonic" — or would make highly respectable singles.

Taken as a whole it lacks the depth and sheer class of Suede's debut, and the band scrupulously avoid any arty pretensions. But as an uncomplicated celebration of youthful brio this is an album which takes some beating.

■ DINOSAUR JR
Without A Sound
Blanco Y Negro
4509-96933 ***

TAKING a leaf out of the Lemonheads' book on how to mint bright pop coin from the grey molder of grunge, Dinosaur Jr serve up a collection of short, sharp songs, some of them verging on the jaunty.

■ ECHOBELLY
Everybody's Got One
Fauze/Rhythm King FAUV 3

AN ALBUM full of neatly

Echobelly: wondrous

chiselled riffs lifted to wondrous heights by the charm and vitality of Sonya Aurora Madan's voice. Forget the new punk tag: this is the gleeful sound of pop-rock genius at work.

20TH CENTURY

Stephen Pettitt

■ IVES
Symphony No 4/The
Unanswered Question
VARESE
Amériques
Cleveland
Orchestra/Dohnányi
Decca 443 172-2 ***

A TIMELY release, neatly coinciding with the Cleveland Orchestra's tour to this country, Charles Ives's Fourth Symphony, finished by 1916 but unperformed in its entirety until 1965, is the American symphony par excellence with its Whitmanesque sense of universality, spirituality and striving. The Scherzo, where different musics from the great American outdoors are thrown together, sounding simultaneously in celebration, is stunning in its effect: a comedy, Ives preferred to call it, but a comedy of the singing of all humanity.

Edgar Varèse's massively-scored *Amériques* of 1921, the first work the French-born composer completed after his arrival in the New World, looks to the bustling confines of city rather than to the expanse of America. Though a brutalistic insistence is already apparent, there is also a sensual, even Ravel-like, aspect of this score.

Christoph von Dohnányi and the superb Clevelanders, aided in the Ives symphony by the Cleveland Chorus and by the second conductor Jahja

Ling, give both works the vivid and committed performances they deserve. The recorded sound is marvellously warm yet immediate and clear.

■ BARBER
Violin Concerto
KORNGOLD
Violin Concerto/Suite Much
Ado About Nothing
Shaham/LSO/Previn
Deutsche Grammophon 439
886-2 ***

THIS disc is for those who like their American music more overtly lyrical. Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto, first played in 1941, oozes irresistible nostalgia for two of its three movements: the third is a moto perpetuo of astonishing brilliance and difficulty. Erich Korngold's Violin Concerto, given its premiere in 1947, takes most of its material from film music and sounds like it — sometimes one years for more extended, exploratory development.

Gil Shaham's lovely though rather unremitting tone suits this music well, as does Andre Previn's unapologetically indulgent shaping of the rich orchestral contributions. Previn provides the piano accompaniment in the filler, a suite taken from the sharply observed incidental music Korngold provided for a Viennese production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1930.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ BOB WILBER
A Man & His Music
J&M Records J&MCD-503

Horns-A Plenty
Arbors Records (import)
ARC-1935 ***
KING Oliver and Hoagy Carmichael, Sidney Bechet and Benny Goodman: the legacy of all these musicians, and others besides, has been enhanced by Bob Wilber's self-effacing work as a bandleader and arranger in the once unfashionable field of reperi jazz. Little wonder that Francis Ford Coppola turned to him for an exact re-creation of 'Twenties jazz in the film *The Cotton Club*.

Along with Kenny Davern he was the leader of Soprano Summit, a pristine mainstream group which staged a stylish reunion concert this summer, with Dick Hyman.

Milt Hinton and Bucky Pizzarelli back at their posts. The evening confirmed Wilber's instinct for generating sinuous melodic lines.

His playing reaches similar heights on these two sessions — one recorded with a British rhythm section, the other with an American line-up. The home-grown disc, *A Man & His Music*, has the edge if only because the conventional backdrop of piano, bass and drums is given greater depth by Dave Hill's subtle guitar breaks.

Wilber gives more thought than most leaders to form and presentation. I can't recall, for instance, the last time I heard a band attempt to cover a version of the Modern Jazz Quartet's masterpiece, "Django". The sudden jarring leap from the elegiac theme of "Django" to the sunny uplands of "I Want To Be Happy" is made palatable by the stirring Goodman-style riff work. Most of the other titles are a springboard for relaxed but un-ditched swing.




Wilber: sinuous melody

Wilber ensuring maximum variety of tone by regularly switching from clarinet to alto and soprano saxophones.


■ MIKE STERN
Is What It Is
Atlantic 82571-2 *

THOUGH he may have shed his reputation as an unlovely, headbanging guitar hero, Stern still leans towards the more bombastic end of the fusion spectrum. The super-proficient Michael Brecker joins him on rite promising original numbers, all of which have a habit of outlasting their welcome.


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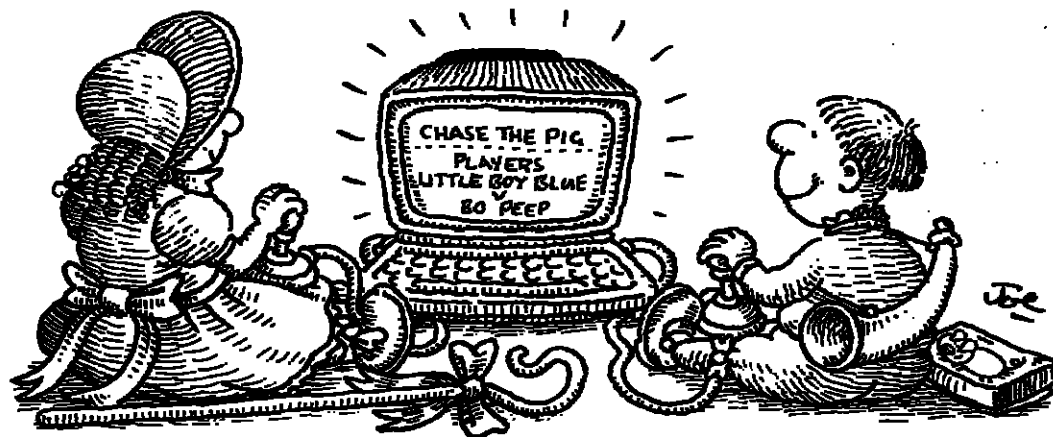
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Milk from a cow? It's not natural

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY



room windows. Here on the farm, it was so quiet it frightened them; they thought the countryside was a sinister place.

But more worrying was their horror at discovering for the first

time how their food was grown. I dug a cabbage from our organically mucked garden and one of the girls squealed: "Hey mister, you ain't got it! I eat that thing that's grown in that fill!" I then offered to

draw some milk straight from the cow, but one of the girls said she felt sick at the thought and could not bear to look at, let alone drink, what came from the cow's udder. A few moments later she tucked

heartily into a yoghurt straight from the unthreatening fridge.

Visits to modern, intensive farms, alas, are now no real answer to the problem of rebuilding a link between soil, crops and food because few farms are inviting or revealing places to be. Massive machinery has helped to make farming an industrial and dangerous process to which children should not be admitted; the widespread use of toxic materials makes farms places to be avoided.

East Anglia now has vast areas given over to outdoor pig-units; but where a child might once have tickled a sow's belly with a stick, it would now think twice after reading signs which warn "Disease Precautions. Keep Out". Participating in harvest would be out of the question too, for it is a process carried out by one man, alone, on a machine so powerful that no child, even if clad in a suit of armour, should be allowed anywhere near it. The simple pleasure of sliding down a haystack when the farmer

was not looking is also out of the question since the introduction of bales so large and heavy that the Health and Safety Executive warns of the dangers of children being anywhere near them.

It is difficult to know how we can ever recapture a sense of belonging to the land, respecting it, and understanding it, when the majority of even country people now lead lives so divorced from the rhythms which traditional rural life once imposed upon them. A sense of season has been eroded, and the thought never crosses the minds of shoppers that a nation's whole harvest might fail and we could be short of wheat for bread, or fodder for animals. But when crop failure and hunger was a real threat, those who had charge of the soil took most care of it. How can children ever learn that the environment is fragile if they see for themselves that no matter what we do to it, the supermarket shelves are always laden? How are they ever going to understand the huge environmental price that has been paid to achieve a level of supply far in excess of our daily needs? I have no answers. Only, just occasionally, a chance to demonstrate.

Wing commanders of the insect world

Many centuries ago the monks of Waltham Abbey in Essex, just north of London, dug a broad stream to take water from the river Lea to turn their millwheel. Most of the abbey buildings have vanished, but the Cornmill Stream still flows, and the long-dead monks still provide sanctuary — but sanctuary, now, for dragonflies.

I visited the cow pasture that lies between the Cornmill Stream and the Old River Lea one hot day earlier this month. The air was alive with dragonflies. Large blue emperors paraded the river, darting occasionally at a bit of this-side-down that they had mistaken for a white butterfly. Common blue damselflies flickered over the banks like shafts of electric light. Banded demoiselles glittered black and green as they flitted above the water-lily leaves. Brown hawkers swept fiercely over the grass and the bushes. Of the 39 species of British dragonfly, 20 have been recorded here, and ten can be seen any summer.

Tim Hill, a 34-year-old land manager for the Lee Valley Park who comes from Derbyshire, was one of the main movers in setting up the sanctuary. He told me that this stretch of water and fields has been a well-known haven for dragonflies for years, much studied by the British Dragonfly Society. The main reason is that there is so much suitable

A sanctuary in Essex is home to a dazzling array of dragonflies



Tim Hill, one of the land managers at Lee Valley Park

vegetation around for the dragonflies to dry their wings on when they emerge from the water. Great hairy willowherb and nettles crowd the banks, and at the north end of the pasture there is a wild patch of woodland, the remains of an arboretum once managed by the Greater London Council to provide trees for the city streets.

Mr Hill and his colleagues worked for almost five years on improving the vegetation before the sanctuary was officially opened last month. The wonderful thing about it is that it remains just unspoilt

field and stream, where anyone can wander, day or night if they want to.

There are no notice boards or signposts — but the Countryside Centre of the Lee Valley Park has produced an excellent free colour brochure that you can carry round with you. It has pictures of the most common species, and indicates which stretch of the water you are most likely to see them on.

Readers will have noticed that I have spelt the river as "Lea" and the park as "Lee" — and that is correct. Both spellings have long been used,

and one or the other has become accepted in different contexts. Many miles of countryside along the Lea, with its innumerable streams, are included in the park, which is a splendid joint creation of all the county and local councils who have territory in it.

Tim Hill hopes that the Cornmill sanctuary will encourage people in other parts of the country to improve conditions for dragonflies on their rivers and ponds, and perhaps found new sanctuaries. Even a garden pond can be made alluring to these mobile creatures. Interest in dragonflies has boomed lately, and there are now even dragonfly "watchers" who will drive 500 miles to see a rare species.

It is not surprising, because they are such exquisite creatures. Moreover, they are such ephemeral creatures in their winged state, living only three to six weeks, in order to mate and lay their eggs. I watched a pair of darter dragonflies clasped together but still flying: they repeatedly dropped down to the water, and the female released eggs each time from the end of her tail. The larvae — which look like small dragons — live on the riverbed for a year or more.

Dragonflies only come out in the sunshine — they need the warmth of the sun to invigorate their wing muscles. But on still, sunny days, many species are still around well into September or even October. To walk round the Cornmill Meadows, with the swift movements of these remarkable insects catching your eye every few moments, is a remarkable experience.

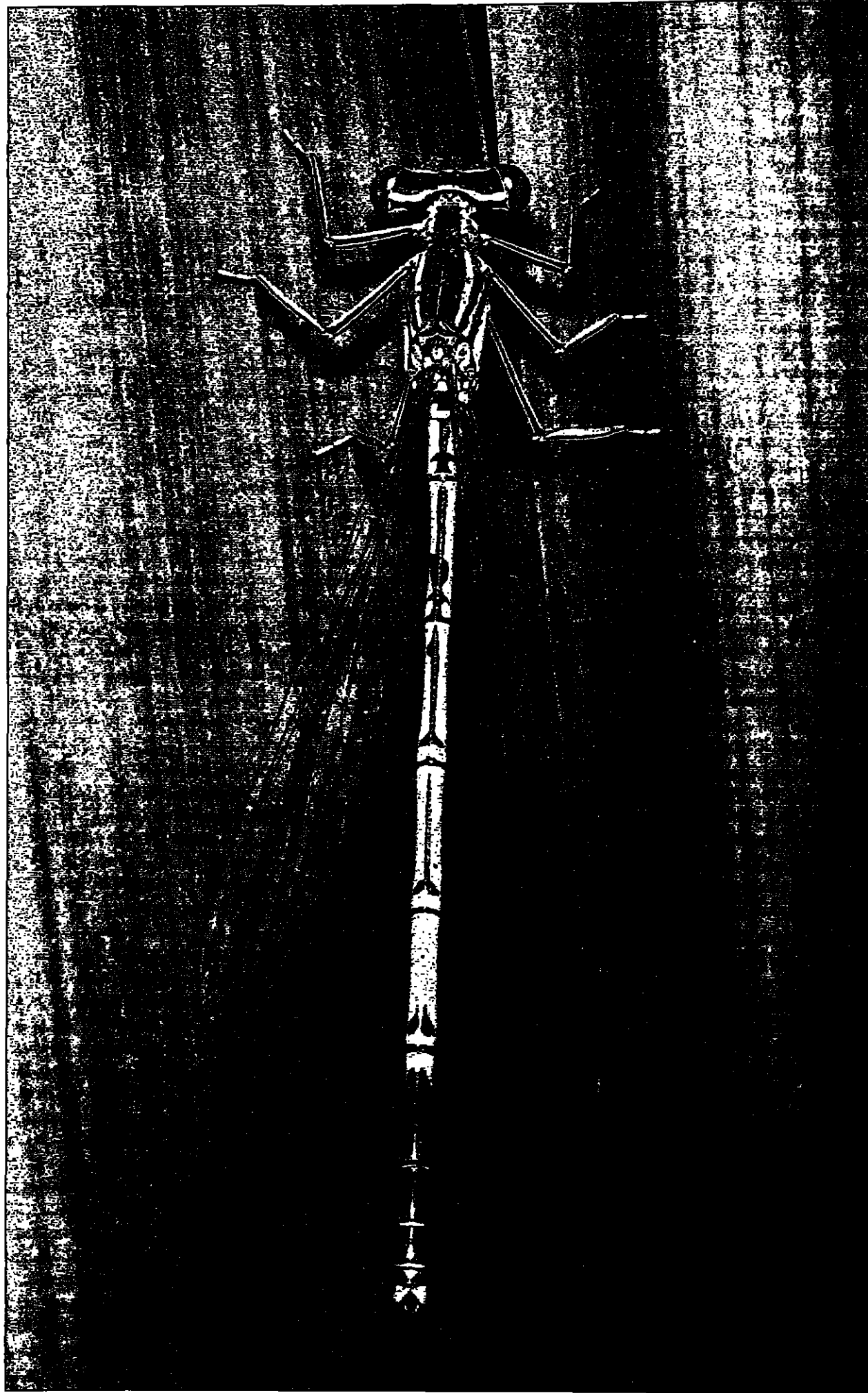
And all the time the tower of Waltham Abbey church looks calmly down on you from the horizon, as it has looked down on people, cows and dragonflies since the Middle Ages.

DERWENT MAY

● The Cornmill Meadows Dragonfly Sanctuary can be reached through a subway under the A121 from the Countryside Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1XQ (0992 71383).

● There is a dragonfly sanctuary in Northamptonshire: details of open days from Ruay Mackenzie Dodds, Ashton Water Dragonfly Sanctuary, Ashton Wold, Northamptonshire NN6 5LZ.

● For information about the British Dragonfly Society, contact The Secretary, 1 Haydn Avenue, Purley, Surrey CR8 4AG.



Of the 39 species of British dragonfly, 20, including the rare white-legged damselfly, have been recorded at the sanctuary

THE TIMES

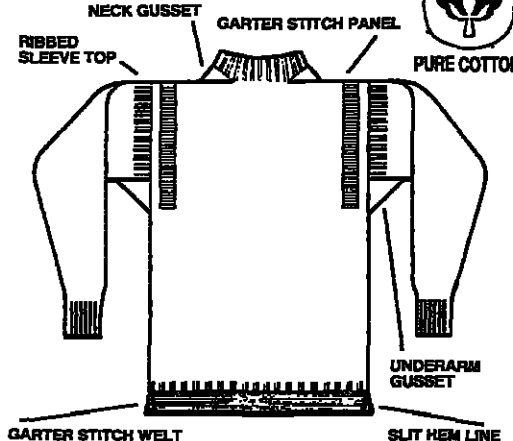
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The green woodpecker reuses its nest

Flight of the laughing woodpecker

GREEN woodpeckers do not travel far from home, but about now you may see one in a large garden or park where they are not often noticed. The juveniles are moving about looking for territories, as their parents resume their solitary lives.

You most often see one as it flies up from the ground where it has been eating ants. If the sun catches it, it is a brilliant spectacle, because it has a striking yellow rump. Sometimes it just looks like a blob of golden light undulating away from you.

It often calls as it goes up — a sort of clattering laugh, with a touch of hysteria about it. It will make for the trees, and land with a flutter of wings on a tree-trunk, hanging there by its strong claws. Its silhouette as it clings to the trunk is very distinctive. The other day I heard one calling from a solitary tree a quarter of a mile away across a field, and I instantly saw it when I looked through my field glasses. Its head tilted back, its beak up, its tail pressed on the bark. It went on up the tree with a series of stout hops, then slipped round the back out of sight.

At closer quarters you can see it is a

predominantly green bird with a red-topped head. The male has a black moustache with a red centre, the female a plain black moustache.

Though it is a genuine member of the woodpecker family, the green woodpecker does not peck at wood all that much. It feeds mainly on anthills, using its sharp beak to make holes in the mound, and licking up the ants as they stream out. Its tongue is four times as long as its beak. Sometimes it will tap away at a dead branch to get at insects, but its main encounter with trees is when it bores a hole in a strong trunk to make its nest in — and it may go on using it for some years.

After they have fed, green woodpeckers will sometimes wipe their beaks on the bark of a tree and then hang there, dozing. They need plenty of well-cropped turf around them if they are to prosper, because that is where ants most abound.

Where sheep farming has declined, or where rabbits have dwindled in numbers because of myxomatosis, the

turf becomes less well-grazed, and green woodpeckers suffer. However, in recent years they have considerably extended their range northwards. They first bred in Scotland in 1951, and since then have colonised a good deal of the country.

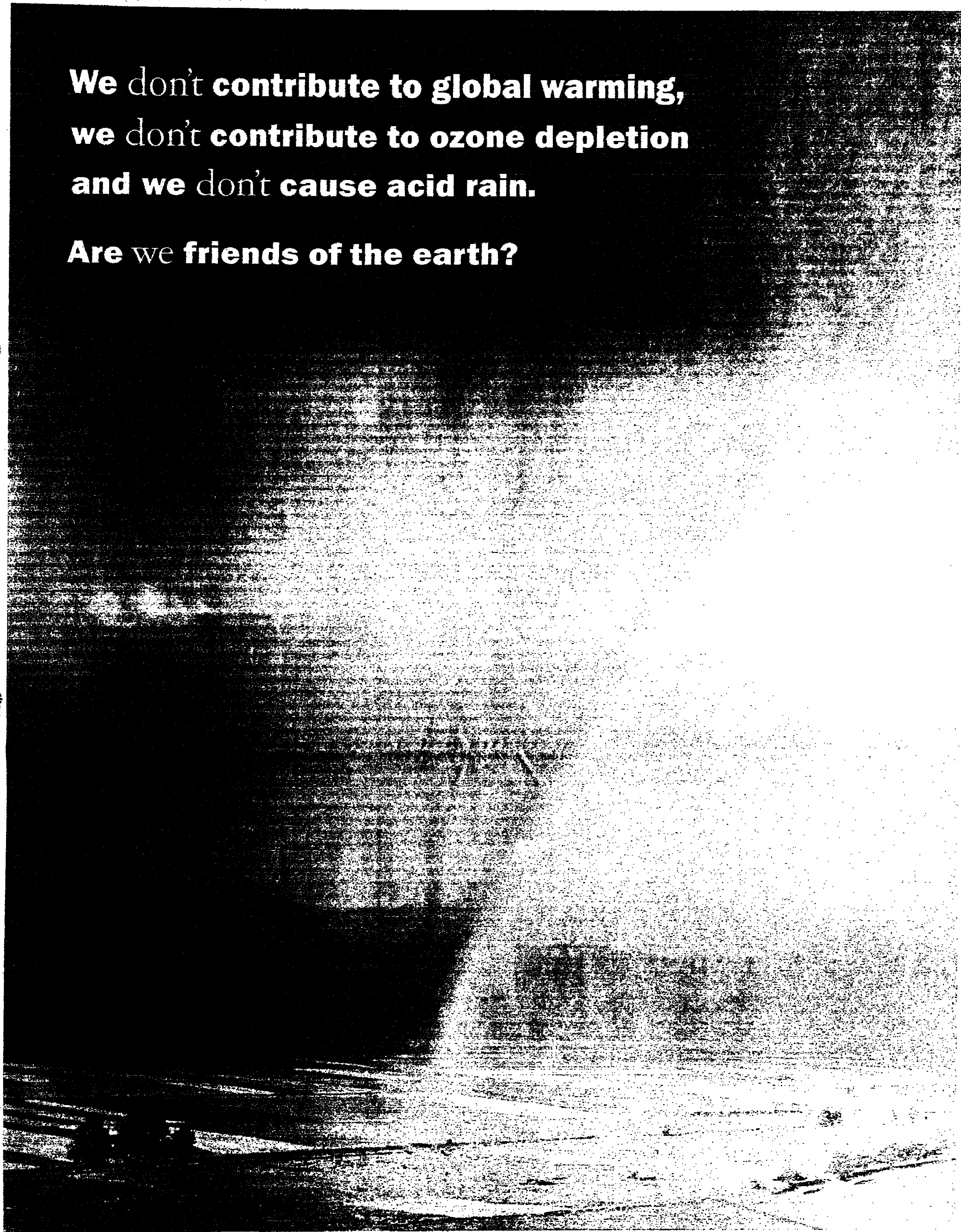
Their main enemy is harsh winters, when the grassland is deep under snow and they cannot get at the ants. They were hard hit in 1962-3 and in 1981-2, but made a fair recovery each time. This summer they have done well, and if the winter is mild their laughing song will be ringing out everywhere from the trees early next year. It is a much more mellow, rollicking laugh than their sharp alarm call — a joyous note for the spring.

DERWENT MAY

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● Robin Jacques is away

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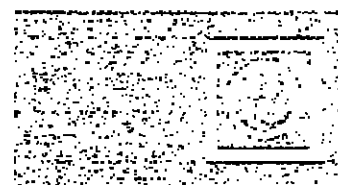
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Liz Thomson on Superwoman award winner Josephine Cox, whose life has been as tough as the stuff of her novels

The girl who sold stories for a penny

IT IS JUST six years since Josephine Cox experienced for the first time the thrill of publication, with *Her Father's Sins*. Since then, she has not stopped writing and now has more than a dozen novels in print. Sales are close to the magic million. *No-body's Darling*, published four months ago, has already sold 130,000 copies. Each January, when the Public Lending Right figures are released, Cox is among the biggest earners, with annual borrowings in excess of 500,000, putting her up there with the likes of Maeve Binchy, Len Deighton, P.D. James and, inevitably, Jeffrey Archer.

Six years, but several lifetimes away from her poverty-stricken childhood in

Blackburn where, the fourth of ten children, she took on the role of "little mother hen". Later, just when it seemed that life had come good, her husband's business crashed and the Cox family sold their home to meet debts. In some cases at least, real life is just as tough as fiction.

"People tell me they laugh and cry when they read my stories, and I'm like that when I'm writing," says Cox, whose warm manner makes you feel you've known her for years. "I don't lie. All the places I write about are authentic and the characters based on real people. In every book my

mother will appear. She might be a little girl, an old woman, even a man. And the bad side of my dad comes out a lot, although I also show the humour."

Her father worked for the corporation and Cox is still immensely proud of the fact that he looked after the Blackburn Rovers ground. "But he drank. He'd come home in the early hours and get violent," she recalls. "I'd go down to the constabulary to fetch a policeman. It happened so often they knew me!"

Between births, her mother worked in the mills. From a very young age "little mother

hen" felt a duty to contribute to the family exchequer and she did it the only way she knew: by telling stories.

"Every Friday, the children would come along and we'd sit in the rubble at the bottom of Derwent Street, where they were pulling down the houses. If they hadn't brought a penny they couldn't stay." Young Josephine must have been a good storyteller, for an audience of 20 or 30 provided enough money for a loaf and a couple of days' gas.

Miss Jackson, her English teacher, offered encouragement, awarding her an essay prize, and announcing to the

school that "one day the world will read your stories".

Josephine put aside her ambitions to teach, leaving school at 14 to work in a "rat-infested factory". She met her husband, Ken, at a fireworks party and they married when she was 16. "After 35 years, he's still my best friend."

Seemingly settled, with two healthy boys, Cox went to night school, and then to teacher training college, but turned down a place at Cambridge because they wouldn't allow her to live out. Soon, she was once more the family breadwinner.

Emotionally and physically

exhausted by the traumas of debt and homelessness, she became seriously ill. Boredom during a long convalescence led to her starting the novel she had vowed that she would one day write. Finally, in 1987, her luck changed: she beat 4,000 other contenders to be named Superwoman of the Year, an award given for achievement in the face of adversity, and that first novel was accepted for publication. The advance bought a new suite of furniture.

"I have to admit that money is now pouring in and it's wonderful. I suppose the wildest thing I've done was to

buy Ken a speedboat. He'd always wanted one, so I feel I've treated myself by treating him. And we're having a house built in Cyprus, but that's for all the family."

Home, though, is still the cottage in Woburn Sands that she and Ken rebuilt from the tumbledown wreck that was the only place the council could offer when they were on their uppers.

"As a child, when I was cold and hungry, I'd think, why am I living like this? I knew there was someone up there putting me through it all. Well, now I know why: so I can write my stories and sometimes help other people."

Josephine Cox's latest novels are *More than Riches* (Headline, hbk, £16.99) and *Born to Serve* (Headline, pbk, £5.99).



Josephine Cox: "In every book my mother appears."

Tickets to central Europe

■ TICKET TO PRAGUE
By James Watson
Gollancz, £10.99

■ SHADOW OF A HERO
By Peter Dickinson
Gollancz, £10.99

THE librarians' award of their Carnegie Medal to Robert Swindells for *Stone Cold* will have proved satisfying to the historians of children's literature. Swindells is only one of a dominant phalanx of writers who allow social conscience to overwhelm simple craftsmanship, and this places him firmly in a 200-year-old tradition.

James Watson is one of the head prefects of this school and there is never a political injustice in the world (preferably of the right against the left) which escapes him. As a writer, he does have more finesse than Swindells, and *Ticket to Prague* centres on the figure of Josef, a Czech poet who has ended up in a British nursing home. The story was, in fact, inspired by the life of Ivan Blatny, a Moravian poet who was exiled in Britain.

Josef is rescued from his depressive state by a bohemian English female doing community service in the home. She reads *The Good Soldier Svejk* to him and ends up by taking him to Prague, where he is to receive belated acclaim.

However, British racism, fascism in Europe, the corruption of Prague by commerce, new laws about care in the community — all are numbered among Watson's grievances, and the force with which they jerry their way into his story shows that little has been learnt from the devious methods of the Good Soldier himself.

Peter Dickinson's *Shadow of a Hero* also focuses on an exiled central European poet/politician: Restaur Vax, leader of the Varianian nation. You will not find Varina on any map, but Dickinson arouses feelings for it beyond anything that Watson and Swindells can manage. He does this partly through his natural gifts, but also through fictional ingenuity. Each chapter in the story of Vax's return to his newly freed country is paralleled by a legend from Varianian history, and these legends add up to a wonderfully told story in their own right: an almost medieval saga of the antagonisms of Christians and Turks. Perhaps intentionally, they also clarify something of the passion behind what's going on in Bosnia, but that is skilfully disguised.

BRIAN ALDERSON



Bardot: "The woman who made all the movies, the woman who led a crazy life, that is not me."

How I tracked down Brigitte Bardot

"FOR THE longest time she wouldn't speak to me. Not being able to get to somebody becomes a major challenge for me. I became obsessed. I wrote her a letter, which said, 'I know you have never co-operated in a biography before, but could we meet so that we can discuss it?' I explained that I had lived in France. I tried to be friendly and funny, and I wrote a letter every month, and sent little presents."

Eventually, she sent a note to me, in French: 'Tell Jeffrey Robinson to go f--- himself.'

So then I decided there was nothing left for it but to bang on her door. The first day I got to St Tropez, I bought a bouquet of flowers. I don't want to say it was big, but several florists have since retired to Florida. And I sent it with a note that read, 'I hope these flowers will brighten up your day,' and signed it, 'Robinson, aux yeux bleus'.

The next morning, I'm walking down the street, and who do I see but Brigitte and her husband Bernard? Now, I have this dilemma: do I walk up to her and say 'I'm Jeffrey Robinson, or do I walk by? This is a woman who has been aggressed on the street her entire life, and if I walk up to her I could blow the whole thing. So I take a deep breath and walk past.

The following day there's a message at my hotel: Brigitte will see you at 11am at the Foundation [the animal refuge she set up].

■ To celebrate Brigitte Bardot's 60th birthday this month, American author Jeffrey Robinson has written *Bardot: Two Lives*, published by Simon & Schuster (£16.99). He talked to Danny Danziger about meeting the star.

I went out early in the morning, and I bought a long-stemmed rose. I don't want to say the stem was long, but several florists. There is a crowd waiting on the off-chance that they might see BB. She showed up, and she does have this magic, even at 60. She was talking to some people, and I stood back about five feet, the rose behind my back. Suddenly, she turned around and looked into my eyes, and said in English: 'Who are you?'

I said, 'Robinson aux yeux bleus', and I produced this rose. And there are 15 seconds where I can see the wheels are turning while she makes her decision, and all of a sudden, that face lights up in a smile, and she does her little-girl act: 'Oh, que c'est jol la rose. Merci, merci.' We start chatting.

Now I have met her, I want to sit down and talk to her. I had decided the way to get her was to make her laugh, and some time ago, I had rehearsed a whole series of animal jokes, which I started telling her. She has a sense of humour, and she would walk away and go and see the animals, and then come back, and I'd tell her another joke, and she'd laugh again. Finally, I

said to her, and Bernard, 'Can I invite you for a drink?' and she said, 'No, no, you'll have lunch with us at La Garrique', which is her ranch on the other side of town.

La Garrique is amazing. There are donkeys, horses, dogs, cats and sheep, all saved from the knacker's yard or cruelty. When these animals see Brigitte they erupt, vying for her attention. She has a relationship with each one.

After lunch, Brigitte and I spent the afternoon walking on the beach and talking. She said: 'The woman who made all the movies, and the woman who led a crazy life, and who was the international sex symbol, that woman is not me. I don't like that woman. My life is animal activism and animal rights, and the only good thing which came out of that first life was that I have a name I can use.'

I don't think Bardot will ever be happy. She's one of those people who finds moments of joy, but then sees things that bother her. One night, she said, 'All my work with animals has been a failure.'

I said: 'How can you say that? Look at the seals' — she made the world aware of the slaughter of seals in the 1970s. 'Yes,' she said, 'but they're killing them again.'

She's not a happy person, but she is a fascinating character. When you get into somebody's life as intimately as I've got into hers, there is a real bond there."

Also published this month is *Bardot* by Sean French (Pavilion, £10.99).

In short, the simple way to please your public

Giles Gordon on why short stories, 'the art of the glimpse', must not be dismissed

PEOPLE — at least journalists — are for ever discovering that "the short story" is alive and in reasonable health, as if it's some kind of recalcitrant beast which should have lain down and died decades ago. Why there is this perception — prejudice, rather — that the short story has long since had its day is difficult to fathom.

If there is a current "revival" of the form it is due less to writers than to publishers and, possibly, readers. Collections of stories, both by individual authors and thematic or geographical anthologies, are increasingly popular with publishers. This is to some extent because it is received book-trade opinion that the writers do not expect to be paid lavish advances for volumes of stories.

Publishers these days are as likely to sell as many — or as few — copies of collections of stories by

new writers as their novels. And Lord Archer's *Twelve Red Herrings* will sell infinitely more copies than most authors' novels.

It is fun but not particularly instructive to play around with comparisons. Perhaps short stories are the literary equivalent of watercolours, which tend not to be taken as "seriously" as oils. Certainly we excel at short stories as we do at watercolours.

It is too slack, indeed wrong, to assert that collections of stories are merely for reading on holiday, if that implies they are easy "escapist" consumption. (Although you will want to know that next week Heinemann publishes *Best Short Stories 1994* in paperback at £8.99, the ninth volume in an annual series, edited by David Hughes and myself, and made for holiday reading.) The stories written by D. H. Lawrence, Somerset

Maugham, Jean Rhys, William Trevor and many others are at least the equal of the novels.

As Michael Ondaatje remarks in his introduction to *The Faber Book of Contemporary Canadian Short Stories* (paperback, £7.99): "While I agree with William Trevor's description of a Chekhov short story as 'the art of the glimpse', I am drawn also to stories that seem to have whole novels contained within them." Precisely. The art of the short story can encompass anything.

Faber's series of anthologies of short fiction from around the globe maps the emotional and literary range of countries, and Ondaatje's selection is a particularly rich and

instructive one, his authors including Atwood, Richler, Gallant, Laurence, Mistry, Shields, Munro and Leacock.

C. K. Stead's *The Faber Book of Contemporary South Pacific Short Stories* (hardback, £14.99) is thimer but it includes New Zealand writers such as Frame, Gee and Manhire, and the editor modestly reprints his own "A Short History of New Zealand". For connoisseurs of literary rows, Stead provides a cheekily combative "Note on Absences", in which he chronicles a boycott of his anthology by certain Maori writers including Booker Prize winner Keri Hulme.

The *Playboy Book of Short Stories* (4th Estate, paperback,

£12.99) is a chunky, somewhat vulgar, tome. The magazine's fiction editor, Alice K. Turner, has chosen one story from each year of Heinlein's 40-year-old monthly, with the exception of 1971 with pieces by both Marquez and Nabokov reprinted. Most of the authors are male and American, the hairy-chested lot you'd expect, including Jones, Roth, Kerouac, Shaw, Updike, Bellow, and Heller.

The Irish speak and write stories as if they're the only literary form. David Marcus's *Irish Love Stories* (Sceptre, paperback, £6.99) contains a lovely ironic piece by Sean O'Faolain, "How to Write a Short Story": "He was going to out-Maupassant Maupassant. He was going to write stories that would make poor old Maupassant turn as green as the grass on his grave." Other stories are by Lavin, O'Connor, McGahern, Mac Lavery,

Edna O'Brien, Trevor, O'Flaherty. There is nothing twee or lazy in a first-rate short story. Sally Gunnell and Linford Christie are not regarded as lacking stamina or seriousness because they prefer the sprint to longer distances. The short story is the length for today. Its intensity and precision accords with the pace of our lives.

Read, for the best and worst of all worlds, J. G. Ballard's incisive "Having a Wonderful Time" in *Modern Short Stories 2* (Faber, paperback, £3.99). Jim Hunter's gentle introductory anthology to the form for readers aged 14 and older. Contributors include Parker, Keillor, Bowen, Carey, Barthelme, Golderman. Ballard's story is undoubtedly prescribed holiday reading: what seems an idyllic vacation, memorialised in a series of postcards from Las Palmas, turns into a technological nightmare.

Bird fetishes and ghoulies

NEW FICTION:

■ REVERSED FORTUNE
By Nicola Barker
Faber & Faber, £9.99

REVERSED Fortune is a bad title for what is a good book (Louisa Young writes). It's a gambling term, and it makes the novel sound like a boys' book, which it isn't. The blurb claims it is about gambling, which is also misleading. A greyhound features, but it is not important that it is a greyhound: it puts two of the protagonists, Ruby and Vincent, on the spot, but a cake serves the same purpose later on. On a deeper level, the characters are trying to win, or not, in the game of life and relationships.

BG
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Ruby has big thighs and short skirts and is nice, which gets her into trouble. Vincent, who spots her as a soft touch, is appealing despite episodes of wilful violence, throwing up and other habits. Sylvia is adored by birds and cringingly allergic to them. Her half-sister, Sam, is a beautiful mixed-race singer.

We get a bit of crime, a bit of violence, some seedy London locations, wild sex and some magical-realist bird fetishism. It is all slightly arbitrary. Sylvia throws a small child into a pond. Why? To show she's mad. But we only hear of the incident again very briefly. This is Tell masquerading as Show, and it's not the only example. The fact that Sam is the brown daughter of a white mother is not developed. The sisters' fathers are not even mentioned.

Barker won the David Higham Prize for her volume of short stories, and *Reversed Fortune* is well written — clear, simple and revelatory. Ruby and Vincent's emotional sneaking around each other is beautifully rendered. The characters all have something, but I wanted Barker to develop them further. This is her first novel — she is 28. I will certainly read her next.

■ DAGGER LANE
By Ann Victoria Roberts
Chatto & Windus, £14.99

ANN VICTORIA Roberts' protagonist, Natasha Crayke (Christina Koning writes), is a novelist who finds herself, literally, possessed by one of her characters, a 17th-century harlot accused of witchcraft, who lived in the house now inhabited by Natasha and her husband.

As Natasha becomes obsessed by the events of her character's life — and violent death — her husband, Nick, a handsome history lecturer, finds solace in the arms of another woman. You can hardly blame him for this, as Natasha, when she is not glued to her word processor, spends her time wandering the country lanes, seeing visions of 17th-century horrors. She also, rather unfairly, refuses to believe in Nick's sightings of a black dog, which haunts these overcrowded lanes.

After 500 pages of things that go bump in the night, Natasha finds that she has written a bestseller. It is likely that, with this combination of spooks, sex and the 17th century, Roberts has pulled off the same trick.

Derwent May reviews the critics

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers

2/5 No books on Cookson: The best-selling novelist Catherine Cookson has said that she does not want a biography of her to be written, but Cliff Goodwin has gone ahead anyway and produced one called *To Be A Lady* (Century £15.99). It has not been well received by the critics. In *The Sunday Times*, John Carey said (with his usual glee at such thoughts) that "for literary intellectuals she is an upsetting problem" — she is "disgracefully popular" and has had a "dramatic success-story". But he found that Goodwin's book, "mainly compiled from public materials... leaves key questions unexplored".

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Jane Shilling wrote more sharply that the circumstances of Cookson's life were "a gift to a biographer — the poverty, drunkenness, violence and illegitimacy" — but that "Goodwin seizes upon this vein of gold and turns it to solid lead". In *The Daily Telegraph*, Hil

lippe Gregory said that all the reader got were "stolen glimpses of banality". However, Jon Trevelin in *The Times* found the book "workmanlike" and "sympathetic" — and in spite of Cookson's pronouncement, he concluded that she had "obviously helped Goodwin with it". Col cms: 171

4/5 Cold caterer: William Trevor's novel *Felicia's Journey* (Viking £15) is about Mr Hilditch, "a supremely creepy catering manager" as Geraldine Brennan put it in *The Observer*, and Felicia, an "unstreetwise" Irish girl who becomes "fantasy fodder" for him. Brennan found it "a quietly passionate tale saturated in despair". In *The Daily Telegraph*, Victoria Glen-dinning said that it was "dominated by the most insidiously memorable character Trevor has ever conjured up" — the said Hilditch, whom we get to know "as intimately as if we lived with him". In *The Times Literary Supplement*, Jim McCue thought Hilditch "might be especially fascinating to his creator", as he too "casts a cold eye over those whose lives he intends to transmute". Clearly creepy! Col cms: 148

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK			
		Last week	No. weeks
1	DEPT OF HONOUR Tom Clancy (HarperCollins)	£16.99	1 3
2	DISCOWORLD COMPANION Terry Pratchett (Collins)	£14.99	4 2
3	TWELVE RED HERRINGS Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins)	£10.99	3 7
4	MAGIC EYE II: A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD (Michael Joseph)	£10.99	5 16
5	MAGIC EYE II: NOW YOU SEE IT (Michael Joseph)	£10.99	7 17
6	FLOYD ON ITALY Keith Floyd (BBC)	£16.99	9 4
7	THE HUMAN ANIMAL Desmond Morris (BBC)	£16.99	8 3
8	DELLA SMITH'S SUMMER COLLECTION Della Smith (BBC)	£14.99	6 18
9	IN THE KITCHEN WITH ROSIE Rosie Daley (Ebury)	£9.99	2 5
10	THE HIDDEN CITY: TAMULI BOOK 3 David Eddings (HarperCollins)	£15.99	10 8
PAPERBACK			
1	BLUE AFTERNOON William Boyd (Penguin)	£5.99	2 2
2	A SPANISH LOVER Joanna Trollope (Black Swan)	£5.99	1 7
3	PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA Roddy Doyle (Mandarin)	£5.99	3 12
4	BIRDSONG Sebastian Faulks (Vintage)	£5.99	4 7
5	CRUEL AND UNUSUAL Patricia Cornwell (Warner)	£4.99	5 10
6	THE CLIENT John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	7 12
7	FOETAL ATTRACTION Kathy Lette (Picador)	£5.99	10 10
8	WITHOUT REMORSE Tom Clancy (HarperCollins)	£4.99	17 4
9	SHIPPING NEWS Annie Proulx (Fourth Estate)	£5.99	6 9
10	WILD SWANS Jung Chang (Flamingo)	£5.99	8 3
11	ADRIAN MOLE: THE WILDERNESS YEARS Sue Townsend (Mandarin)	£7.99	12 19
12	MR MURDER Dean R. Koontz (Headline)	£4.99	11 7
13	RIVER GOD Wilbur Smith (Pan Macmillan)	£5.99	18 2
14	THE HOUSE OF DOCTOR DEE Peter Ackroyd (Penguin)	£5.99	12 10
15	THE BIBLE ACCORDING TO SPIKE MILLIGAN Spike Milligan (Penguin)	£5.99	9 3
16	FELICIAE AHI PIRACCIA (Fourth Estate)	£4.99	15 2
17	THE MAN WHO MADE HUSBANDS JEALOUS Jimmy Cooper (Corgi)	£5.99	19 16
18	TELL MRS POOLE I'M SORRY Kathleen Rowntree (Black Swan)	£5.99	0 1
19	DANGEROUS FORTUNE Ken Follet (Pan)	£5.99	20 6
20	A SUITABLE BOY Vikram Seth (Phoenix)	£3.99	0 1

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BOOKS

A long, long way to travel

NEW IN PAPERBACK



Angela Carter: a macabre and disturbing story

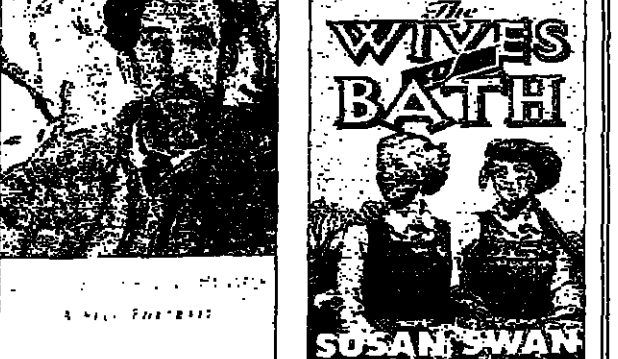
■ SHADOW DANCE
By Angela Carter
Virago, £9.99
Angela Carter's first novel (1966), reissued next week after years in obscurity, should reinforce her posthumous standing as one of the great originalists in contemporary British writing. Her last novel, *Wise Children* (1991), took some readers by surprise: a mature, Shakespearean comedy about the lives of two ageing chorus girls, it showed the other side of Carter the provocative cultural decoder. *Shadow Dance* does something else again. In a modern horror story gleaming with perfect 1960s detail, she performs a double act, conjuring up just the right amount of Frankensteinian unease and perversion beneath the idiosyncratic business of relatively ordinary lives. Two male antique dealers, impressionable Morris and his opportunist, streetwise partner, Honey, are being persecuted by Ghislaine, a young tease turned ghoul. Maddened by her voraciousness, Honey has cut Ghislaine's face open with a knife, horrifically disfiguring her. By night and day they try to avoid the issue, wasting time in increasingly neurotic displacement activity, observed by depressed wife, bristly compassionate girlfriend and fond old waitress at the coffee bar. All in vain: looters they are, looters they remain. A deliberately disturbing story, radiant with Carter's descriptive clarity.

■ ROBINSON
By Christopher Petit
Vintage, £5.99
Mysterious encounters in Soho lure Petit's rootless film-maker narrator out of the London daylight into a fevered, film-noirish underworld dominated by a man called Robinson. Magnetic, elusive, sinister, a trader in dark emotions, Robinson very slowly pulls the strings until amiable explorer becomes accomplice to obsession. From mansion flats in NW1 to an increasingly decadent dream-factory in Clerkenwell, a chill settles on the reader's shoulder. This strong first novel has all the hallmarks of the significant debut: a compulsive narrative, imaginative depths and what seems an inexhaustible supply of marvellously eccentric characters.

■ CRAZY IN ALABAMA
By Mark Childress
Penguin, £5.99
Pejice and his brother Wiley are orphans growing up in Alabama in 1965 when two events turn their lives upside down. First Aunt Lucille arrives with her murdered husband's head packed in a Tupperware box and sets off to California for her big chance as a movie star. Then a wave of civil rights fever sweeps across industry, the small town where they live, bringing bloodshed and tragedy in its wake. The novel is reminiscent of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* — both deal with civil rights in Alabama — but Childress's mastery of the burlesque gives this book a unique appeal.

■ A BIG LIFE
By Susan Johnson
Faber, £6.99
The inner life of an Australian acrobat is at the centre of this warm-hearted story of the war years, set mainly in England between the 1920s and the Coronation. From the expansive household of his Sydney childhood to the pinched suburbs of London, Billy's innocent dreams yield to the wisdom of experience as he tries to walk the tightrope between professional engagement and marriage. A sensitive portrait of two cultures and a lifetime spent in service to the dying art of variety performance.

■ AFTER THE WAR: the Novel and England since 1945
By D.J. Taylor
Flamingo, £6.99
Taylor is a young fogey with a reputation as a vituperative literary critic. In this account of what he believes is the decline of the English novel, he confesses his predilection for Thackeray, Trollope and Gissing. For Taylor a good novel must be long, densely plotted, full of dialogue and swearing with characters, so he was never likely to be impressed with anything touched by modernism. By ignoring our most inventive postwar novelists — Burgess, Golding, Rushdie, Julian Barnes, Jeanette Winterson — he finds it not too hard to prove that Kingsley Amis, Simon Raven and Margaret Drabble are inferior to "shining exemplars of the past".



THE WIVES OF BATH

■ LYTTON STRACHEY BY HIMSELF
Edited by Michael Holroyd
Vintage, £6.99
Strachey's writing career began with so much promise yet ended in a pool of disappointment. He spent his teenage years, surrounded by luxury, yearning to produce a great work, which, in 1913, he did with the still impressive *Eminent Victorians*. But he never repeated this success, and this collection of autobiographical writings, edited by Holroyd, traces his career from youthful striving to resigned, death-haunted and sexually ambivalent middle age. This book will mainly be of interest to the Bloomsbury watchers.

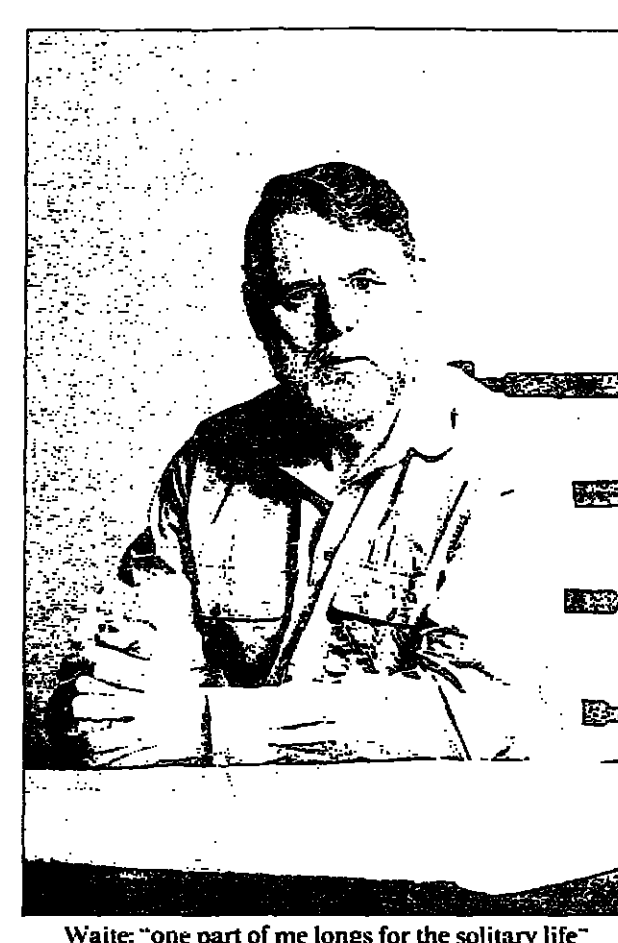
Contributors: Alison Burns, Helar, Davidson, Giles Curren, Jason Cowley

Terry Waite reflects on his journey from political captive to free man

PEOPLE telephoned Lyneham, but no calls were put directly through to me. Oliver North, one of the shadows in this book, was one such caller. We met in a private house in London; I was making a film about my experience for the BBC and asked Colonel North if he would agree to the whole of our conversation being recorded. He readily consented. "Did you use me?" I asked. He didn't reply directly. "The American government uses people all the time," was his enigmatic response. Had I been sharper and not under so much emotional pressure I might have asked him to clarify his meaning. As it was, I didn't. What became clear to me was that Colonel North did not expect me to return to Beirut once the Iran-Contra affair broke to me and the world for the first time. I have no doubt that he felt badly about my capture. In all honesty, I could, and did, say to him that I did not hold him responsible for my return to Beirut. True, he may have left me with few options, but it was my decision, and mine alone, to go back when everything appeared to be collapsing. I am aware of progress and development. Part of the journey has been to discover the appropriate balance between family, solitude and community. Prior to captivity I spent little time alone. Now, I have discovered part of the meaning of creative solitude, and I notice that all my family have found something of that also. The pattern of our life, which now involves me spending some days each week totally alone so as to write, proves to be creative and necessary for all of us. My job at Lambeth Palace had been held open, but now I knew I could not take it up. Time was needed to return to reasonable health and, also, I believe that one should not go back in life. Six months after returning home I resigned. During the days of darkness I had asked myself what I would wish to do with the remainder of my life if I should ever be released. The answer was clear: read more, and write, and lecture, in order to support myself to engage in humanitarian activities. I did not want to return to a full-time job if I could help it. So far I have been able to fulfil what I wanted to do. I returned to a Church which reflected the change and uncertainty through which the country was passing. I was aware that the structures of society were altering so quickly that individuals seemed unable to find a bearing. The political changes developed during my absence were beginning to bite. A price tag seemed to have been stuck on everything, from the care of the young to the responsibility for the sick and deprived. It appeared that the compassion, so evident in the letters Frances and I received, lacked a social structure through which it could flow effectively. I don't wish to convey the impression of one returning from the wilderness full of wisdom and grace. That would be a manifest nonsense. However, my belief is that the Church more than ever needs to concentrate on depth of religious experience. Our fragmented society needs a whole series of "reflective pools", places where the very deepest issues of life and death may be explored and understood away from the cut and thrust of the marketplace. It will take a long time for me to understand what was happening to my soul during those years of silence. I hope that my continued feeling of vulnerability, developed as a result of being treated as less than a person for so long, will enable me to be of more constructive help to others who struggle. Perhaps. One part of me longs for the solitary life, long to go to the desert with my books and papers and devote myself entirely to the interior journey. Another part recognises that I must find a balance. A balance between family, solitude and community. There is still a long, long way to travel, and I shall press on. God has been good to me, and to those whom I love. "Each venture," Eliot said, "is a new beginning." Indeed it is; in mortal life and in that which we call death. Suffolk, April 1994

Words in an ideal form

■ LANDING ON CLOUDS
By Olivia Fane
Mandarin, £5.99
MANY novels recently have seemed like bids for film rights, combining soundbite sentences and melodramatic plots. Fortunately, Olivia Fane has not been influenced by the insidious belief in publishing that people don't read in order to engage their minds. Not that *Landing on Clouds* lacks drama. Its protagonist, Robert Standing, a Cambridge don, is led by his metaphysical musings into some extraordinary acts which wreak havoc in the lives of the women who love him. As an undergraduate, he becomes convinced from poetic and biblical references that the soul resides in the blood. His literal mind leads him to give his soul, in the shape of a pint of his own blood, to the woman he loves. He isolates himself for 20 years in his search for a way to express visually through colours the emotions induced by notes of music. When this esoteric experiment fails, he marries an artist, after falling in love with one of her pictures, and takes her for a winter to a deserted island in the Outer Hebrides. After one truth experiment too many, she throws him out of their Cambridge home in the early hours of the morning. He breaks into Olivia's house looking for shelter. She writes a book about him. Fane, the winner of a Betty Trask award in 1993, uses this device of author as narrator to try and pin down Robert's soul. Her research for his biography leads her to the damaged women in his life. Was Robert himself damaged at an early stage by his father's decision to send his son, one of life's outsiders, to a classically horrendous public school? Or was he simply "born bad", like the Justified Sinner? Her answer, in the last sentence, carries a kick to it, delivered with the insouciance that runs through the book. She has a shrewd and none-too-kind eye that highlights human ridiculousness, bringing to mind comparisons with Shena Mackay, and, in her hero's philosophical quest, with early Iris Murdoch. It is good that there are some new writers for whom the novel is in itself the ideal form, rather than the road to a film script.



Waite: "one part of me longs for the solitary life"

Tangled human web

An examination of love and families, which power the motor of life

■ STARCARBON
By Ellen Gilchrist
Faber & Faber, £14.99
LOOK AT the family tree that is the frontpiece of Ellen Gilchrist's novel, and you will begin to get an idea of the delicate complexities in the relationships she describes so well. Daniel Hand has a new grandson, K.T., but, more alarmingly, he has a newly-discovered daughter: Olivia, half-Cherokee, whose mother died at her birth. Daniel is wealthy, and he sends his daughter to college in North Carolina. But Olivia isn't happy there, and she returns to her Cherokee family in Oklahoma, to Bobby Tree, who wants to marry her and take her to the Starcarbon ranch in Montana — his over-the-rainbow, his Oz. Along the way there's Helen, Daniel's sister, who has abandoned her family for her love of a poet, and Georgia, Olivia's passionate anthropologist professor, tormented by hatred of her lover's twin sons. It is a tangled web. Everything happens so fast: Olivia, meeting her half-sister's baby, feels a flash of terror. "First Jessie and King were sneaking off to spend nights on the beach and then K.T. was in the world. Some guy you loved and a beach and you were on the couch with a baby stuck to your tit." The heart of this novel lies in these sudden changes, in love, in families, that power the motor of life, and Gilchrist explores them with the ease and infinite care that have become her trademark.



Above, The Blitz, London's East End, 1940, by George Rodger. A retrospective of his work, including images of the African Masai tribes and the liberation of Belsen, is at the Royal Photographic Society, Bath, until October 2. *Humanity and Inhumanity: the photographic journey of George Rodger* is published by Phaidon Press, £45.

Does your computer understand you?

■ WINDOWS FOR DUMMIES
By Andy Rathbone
IDG Books, £4.99
THE LAST computer I bought came with seven manuals, each more recondite than the last. This explains the ludicrous number of computer instruction manuals on the market. For, as computers get simpler, so are the computer illiterate more readily gulled into believing that they'll quickly be able to get the hang of it all and so does their dismay rise with constructions such as "and of course the RS232 port cannot be used for SCSI peripherals": written by a geek who doesn't realise that not everyone is *au fait* with computers. The motto of the *Dummies* series, is "A Reference for the Rest of Us" which is as reasonable a rallying cry for those who can't tell a SCSI port from a hole in the ground as any I can think of. Their principle is that if you can't decipher the books which came with your computer or its software then neither will you need three-quarters of what those books have to tell you. And certainly most of the books in the series make a reasonable job of translating geek-speak into something like proper English. It should be possible, just, for a bright middle-manager with a copy of *Windows for Dummies* to get from packing case to "Dear Sir..." in a couple of intense hours, but then what do I know? I'm the sort of sad geek who reads computer manuals in bed. The books are cleverly set out with little icons — a computer term, I'm afraid — telling you which bits you needn't bother reading. The "Fun" part of the "fun and easy" tag on the cover of most of them refers to the relentlessly jokey style, the punning headlines and the nerdy cartoons. They are as near as computer books can get to English but they still shy from acknowledging the fact that if you're going to play around with megabytes and ROMs you're going to have to understand the basics of what they are. And I'm afraid that I've met too many people who will never understand why a computer doesn't work precisely what they want to do, even dummies can learn how to use computers.

JOHN DIAMOND

CLARE COLVIN

TIMES BOOKS

MONDAY
Ian McIntyre on Ben Pimlott's essays: Japanese novelist Shusaku Endo

THURSDAY
Rachel Cusk reviews Peter Carey's *The Unusual Life of Tristan Smith*; Rabbi Julia Neuberger on *The Jews in the History of England*

Imperial quality of a Cairo family saga

■ PALACE WALK, PALACE OF DESIRE AND SUGAR STREET
By Naguib Mahfouz
Black Swan, £6.99 each

ZOLA, Proust, Balzac, Dumas, Camus, Greene, Dickens, Galsworthy, Scott, Lawrence, Wells, Shaw, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Mann, Marquez, Fuentes: when a writer has been compared favourably to all of these, you can't go wrong, can you? Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo Trilogy, one of his greatest and probably his most accessible works, first published in the 1950s, confirms that the author can live up to most of the comparisons some of the time. Mahfouz's form is a familiar winner. He invents a turn-of-the-century family, peoples it with universal characters, and tells its story over three generations. Through the human saga, Naguib Mahfouz also chronicles the historical saga of Egypt, or more properly Cairo in the first half of the 20th century, up to Nasser's accession in 1952. He delivers, too, both an obscure and a polemical left-of-centre social commentary, notably on the condition of women in a Moslem society, while refusing to toe any party line. And he deals with some of the great conflicts of all — not just Third World, not just Islamic — modern societies: spiritualism versus secularism, the state versus the individual, a national culture versus an imperialist culture. And he does it — and his translator does it, too — in an idiomatic, readable-to-the-point-of-racy style. Mahfouz is unchallenged as the father of the Arabic novel, revered throughout the Arab world, made famous in the West both by the 1988 Nobel Prize and as the subject of a *fatwa* for his depiction of the prophet in another book. This overdue publication should finally ensure that the writer of several dozen books and screenplays, now aged over 80, begins to receive the respect and sales that a man whose work can rank with the very best deserves.

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GARDENING

19

In an English prison garden

George Plumptre
The Times Gardener,
on skills flowering
behind bars

Prisoners have always gained solace from being able to look out on to a garden. In 1423, while imprisoned in Windsor Castle, King James I of Scotland wrote: "Now there was made, fast by the tower's wall, a garden fair, and in the corner set an herbry green."

The realisation of how gardens can brighten the harsh environment of today's prisons led to the foundation of the Windlesham Trophy competition ten years ago. It was the idea of Lord Windlesham, then chairman of the Parole Board, and is organised by HM Prison Service and the Royal Horticultural Society.

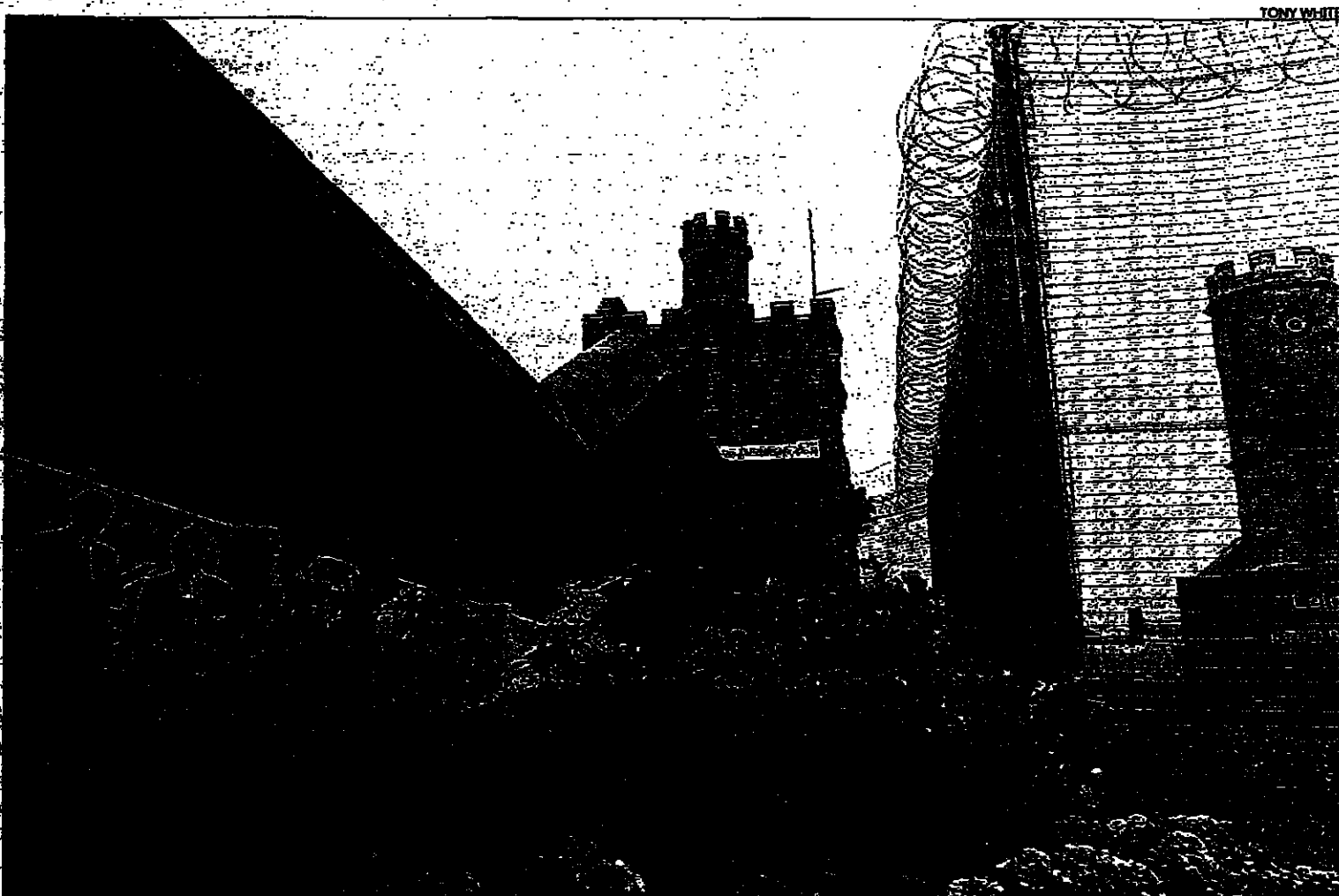
This year, for the first time, all 132 penal centres in England and Wales entered the competition. Brian Doe, the chairman of the RHS judging committee, says that the standard has been rising over the years.

The problems of gardening within prison walls were evident when I joined the RHS judges on their visit to the top security Kingston Prison in Portsmouth. Displays are severely restricted by security; nothing can be planted that will interrupt the sight lines of security cameras or prison officers, so, despite the wall space, climbing plants are hardly used.

The six inmates who tend the gardens are overseen by Jim Dampier, a prison officer who is a qualified agricultural craftsman. Security measures aside, the men are most concerned with the damage to plants caused by three resident peacocks, and the 200 or so ducks that invade the grounds each year to raise young.

Another problem is shortage of moisture. Most of the planting is done in thin-soil beds taken back from the concrete and other hard surfaces of the prison walls.

The gardens extend all around the prison buildings. In some places, planting is limited to a small flower bed, but in others, such as a courtyard, it is more extensive. Two sides of the central area of Astronut, on which sports are played, are lined by trees, with shrub borders beneath. The trees are pruned to a height of about 15ft and their trunks wrapped in



Within the walls of Kingston Prison, Portsmouth, two Windlesham Trophy judges assess the merits of part of the gardens

brassies up to the height of a man. The use of redundant areas is illustrated in a corner formed by three walls, which is brightened by three raised beds with stone fronts planted with pink, pelargoniums, petunias, white alyssum and blue lobelia. Outside the dining room is a series of square stone beds planted with peonies and silver-leaved helichrysum.

With the exception of a few special plants, which Mr Dampier has brought such as the *Magnolia soulangeana* planted in a small triangle of grass by the entrance to the administration block, all plants come from the open prison in West Sussex, which supplies most prisons in the south of England. The selection is limited and mainly comprises annuals and perennials such as pelargoniums, begonias and marigolds. In the visiting area, a pattern of white pebbles forming the Portsmouth crest and the word "Welcome" are set in a circular mound topped with a bed of pink, white and red pelargoniums, edged with alternating lobelia and alyssum. To one side, 20ft-high wire fences enclose a rectangle where a lawn contains three circular beds

planted with an arum lily, a hardy fuchsia and a *Hydrangea macrophylla*. Outside the visitors' building is a lush and well-kept garden made for blind people by an inmate. He also built four brick beds incorporating seats around a pool with a fountain. The beds contain annuals and mixed herbs such as mint, thyme and marjoram, and

alpenes such as miniature pinks (dianthus). Plants that cope with this prison's conditions are at a premium, but the variegated variety of *Euonymus fortunei*, a robust shrub, has been successfully planted by the football pitch, where it will grow into a low hedge. As Mr Doe pointed out, the conditions for gardening in closed prisons are far more challenging than those in open institutions. And while winning the trophy brings one year's satisfaction, it is the long-term pleasure of tending a garden or just being able to look at it which are more important to the inmates.

This year, Kingston was not able to repeat its 1988 success in taking the Windlesham Trophy; it was won by Wharton Prison, Nottingham.

- Plant growth in ponds should be controlled. Cut off and remove dead foliage so that it does not decompose in the water. Remove dead lilies, too.
- This is a good time for limited pruning of small ornamental trees whose shape and size needs to be controlled. Their sap is going down and early autumn pruning gives time for hardening off before winter.
- Sow the seed of hardy cyclamen varieties in an outdoor container.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q My garden has a border of colchicums, which I would like to spread to other areas. Are they easy to divide, and when should it be done?
R.G. James, Salford, Greater Manchester.

Divide them now, before they run up to flowering in September and October. The bulbs increase like those of daffodils, and are simple to split up and plant. But remember they are poisonous. Replant the bulbs singly, because they clump up quickly. You may care to plant the "try" — the smallest of the offsets — in rough grass for a future display. (Ordinary purple *Colchicum autumnale* is a beautiful plant, but try the white *C. speciosum* 'Album', 'Lilac Wonder', or the double lilac 'Waterlily').

spring in individual pots, having soaked the seed for a couple of hours in warm water, and having made a break in the hard seed coat. Give the seed plenty of heat to germinate, perhaps 70F-80F/21C-27C. Plant the trees out in their final positions in early summer, and watch them take off the next year.

Q My kentia palm (*Howea belmoreana*) is 32 years old and 6ft high. It is a handsome tree and I know how to keep it happy — not too much light or water, and spraying the foliage in hot weather. It has been repotted twice over the last six years. Recently the lower leaves turned brown, and it looks very unhappy. Any ideas?
Mrs Lilian Morris, Auchterarder, Perthshire.

A The causes may be red spider mite (against which you can spray with permethrin or malathion), or a suddenly increased dose of fertiliser. Often, plants which have lived for years on a lean and steady diet will, when given larger amounts of fertiliser, shed a lot of old leaves from the bottom and shoot away hard at the top.

● Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is given without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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TRAVEL

ADVENTURE AT 50: How a couple and their camper van made a 21,000-mile journey through North America

Over the hill and far away

We didn't want to go to America: it was just en route to Australia. So how was it we found ourselves in Orlando, handing over wads of traveller's cheques for an eight-year-old motorhome, contemplating a journey for which we had no plans and no itinerary?

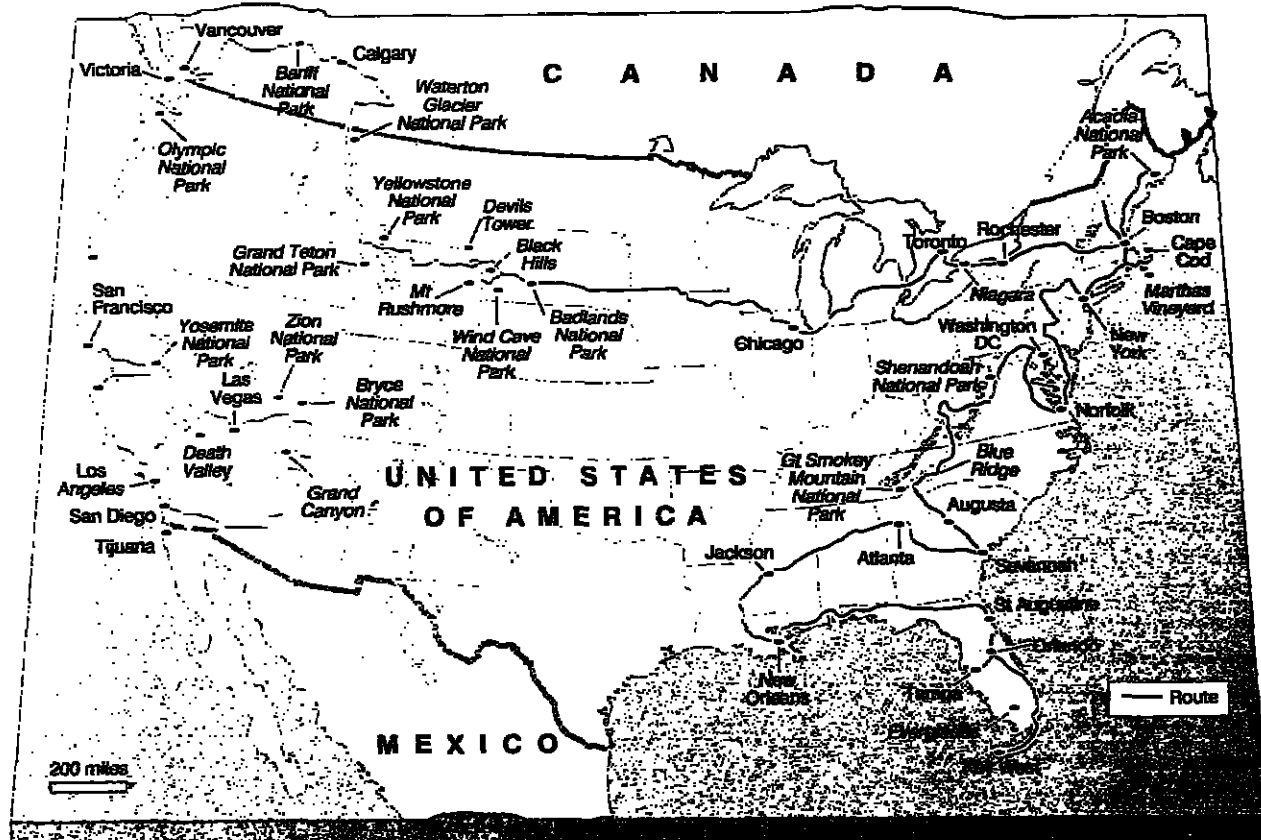
I suppose envy was at the root of it. Envy of the young. Why could half the student population of Britain be off backpacking somewhere exotic, while their parents suffered redundancy left, right and centre? Why couldn't we travel like the young: take a sabbatical; see the world? Couldn't we pre-empt the mid-life crisis?

My wife Susan and I, aged 49 and 50 respectively, talked into the night. By the morning it was decided. We'd take our own "year out". After all, you're only middle-aged once.

There were a lot of planning problems. That was to be expected. Problems such as, what should we do when we got back? (worry about that later); where do we go and how do we afford it? Round-the-world tickets seemed best value, allowing flexible stops on the way, so we planned to travel west towards Australia via the United States. Our April departure date made it sensible to arrive in the southern United States, then work up towards Canada as the temperature rose.

As to the expense, that was the big problem. The only way, financially, we could achieve our aim in some degree of comfort, was by purchasing a second-hand motorhome, camping "full time" as the Americans call it, and then selling it at the end of our tour.

And so it was that we arrived in Orlando, Florida. We'd hired a 19ft truck-camper for two weeks to give us a feel of things; then, with advice from a local contact, we purchased our "rig", a 24ft C Class 1985 motorhome. Fortunately the garage handled the considerable paperwork involved.



Neighbours on our campsite looked puzzled when, having driven out in a truck-camper, we returned proudly in our own vehicle. "You've got a steal," they said, though I wasn't sure if that meant we'd got a bargain or not.

The open road soon became addictive, and all my preconceived ideas about America fell by the wayside. Our luxurious and self-contained motorhome allowed us to indulge our wanderlust to the full, at little more cost than living at home.

We had decided to plot our route by way of old friends and distant relatives, covering as many national parks as possible, savouring the cities where practical.

Things went well until we reached Jackson, Mississippi, when our trip came to an

unscheduled stop. The oil pressure dropped suddenly, the engine cut out, and, with steering locked, we coasted on to the hard shoulder. I was convinced that the engine had seized up. After arranging a tow, we spent a wretched night in the compound of an oily smelling wrecker's yard awaiting the morning's prognosis.

Next day, the mechanic discovered that our oil filter had worked loose.

Replacing this, and refilling the oil, he instructed me to "Crank her over" — if the oil pressure rises, you're OK, he said. "If not..." A group of onlookers were now standing, expectantly, by the driver's door. I turned the ignition key. Nothing happened. I tried again. The engine fired. Painfully slowly, the oil pressure began to rise. I breathed a sigh of relief as the onlookers broke into spontaneous applause.

Elated, we continued on to the tranquillity of the Natchez Trace, a 400-mile long parkway from which all building development and commercial traffic are banned. With the Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana* playing loudly in our cab, producing a single factor of ten, a state of general euphoria prevailed.

Looking back, I am amazed that we managed to experience such an incredible range of scenery and climate during our eight months on the road. We crossed the Mississippi



Port of call: Badlands National Park in South Dakota

and the Missouri, walked the shores of the Great Lakes, traversed the backbone of the Appalachians and scaled the Rockies. We lived at over 8,000ft for weeks, and passed through Death Valley at 282ft below sea level. We saw a temperature range of nearly 100 degrees, drove through areas where annual rainfall never exceeds five inches, and others where it rains half an inch every day. We saw drought and thunderstorms, raging bush fires and floods. We passed through endless acres of wheat, fields of cotton and tobacco, high mountain pines and primeval forests: into canyons, over swamps and bayous, across deserts.

With our on-going repairs,

the motorhome remained in good shape and we were fortunate to find friends in Vancouver who agreed to buy it for much the price we had paid.

It was sad to see our beloved motorhome disappear into the distance, but I'll never forget the first three letters of our licence plate: NQS. I used a mnemonic: Not Quite Sane. Perhaps we weren't. After all, what had originally been a simple prelude to our world tour had become an epic journey in itself. Twenty-one thousand miles of driving had taken us through 35 states and three Canadian provinces. We're taking a breather now. Before stage two.

GRAHAM FOAT

HOW THE COSTS ADD UP

Purchase, less resale value, of used 24ft C Class Honey motorhome, all taxes, licence, insurance, repairs, servicing: average cost per week over eight months	£110
Travelling and living expenses:	
Average camp fees per week	£71
Average meals, snacks and provisions per week	£54
Petrol based on average of 648 miles per week	£48
Total (per week)	£173

THE ALTERNATIVES

Hire of 19ft Truck Camper, weekly mid-season rates, fully inclusive	£375
Car hire plus hotel for two people: medium saloon, low season with full insurance; cheapest available motels, averaged to weekly basis	£406

Where to stay

NATIONAL PARKS: The Golden Eagle Passport (about £17) allows all family occupants of a private vehicle unlimited access to all national parks for 12 months. Camping fees are extra. Facilities are usually more basic than private campgrounds — and cheaper — about £7 per night. We rarely found it a problem to get a national park site, but, if possible, book ahead for the following dates: the weekend around Memorial Day (last Monday in May), and around Labour Day (first Monday in September), and especially the week around Independence Day (July 4). On other summer weekends, especially in school holidays, arrive at a busy site on the Thursday or early on Friday.

Some sites at the busiest parks can be booked up to eight weeks in advance via a reservation system called MISTIX at PO Box 85705 San Diego, California (0101 619 92186 5705; 1 800 365 2267 in America).

I strongly recommend the maps, tour and camping guides available free to AA or RAC members from any AAA (American Automobile Association) or Canadian AA office. Woodalls and Trailer Life also publish camping directories. The National Geographic publishes an illustrated guide to the national parks (avail-

able in Britain) and each park provides an informative colour pamphlet on entry.

We visited the following national parks (plus a much larger number of state parks, some of which surpass the national parks in their facilities): Everglades, Natchez Trace Parkway, Great Smoky Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway, Shenandoah, New River Gorge, Harpers Ferry, Colonial, Cape Cod National Seashore, Acadia, Badlands, Wind Cave, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Devils Tower National Monument, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Watkins/Glacier, Banff and Jasper (both in Canada), Olympic, Redwood, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Death Valley.

CITIES: On the whole, it is not viable (or desirable) to camp in the larger cities. Select sites within commuting distance, then travel in by public transport. Campgrounds of America (KOA), has sites near all cities. Contact PO Box 31734, Billings, Montana (0101 406 248 7444). Most will organise either transport to bus/rail stations, or lay on guided tours from your camp to the city sights.

We managed to camp in the inner suburbs of New Orleans (although barricaded behind a 24-hour security fence), Orlan-



A totem pole in Stanley Park, Vancouver, one of numerous stopping-off points: "We decided to plot our route by way of old friends and distant relatives, covering as many national parks as possible, savouring the cities where practical."

do (where sites are plentiful, if pricey) and San Francisco, a most user-friendly place, which has an excellent site by the city centre. Otherwise we stayed either with friends or in country campgrounds and travelled in to the other major cities: Atlanta, Washington, Boston, New York, Toronto, Chicago, Vancouver, Los Angeles and San Diego. Book a few days ahead (longer in high season). Although average camp sites cost about £10 per night, those nearer cities and major resorts cost more — about £20-£27 per night.

G. F.

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Where is everybody?



(SEE PAGE OPPOSITE.)

SWEDEN: Enjoy the diverse pleasures of Stockholm or space and solitude in the Lapland wilderness

Water, water everywhere

Sweden has the image of being small, cold, gloomy and expensive. The reality is that it is a large and unspoilt country, almost twice the size of Britain, with spectacular scenery and a population smaller than that of Greater London. For the traveller there is space, solitude if you want it.

From May to September the weather is sunny, dry and (in most years) warmer than here. Catering and accommodation are good and, except less than they used to, and most people speak English. The Swedes may appear reserved, but are friendly and eager to please, with a self-deprecating sense of humour. "My name is Jerk," said one of my guides. "But with English speakers I call myself Eric."

Stockholm, the capital, is built on 14 islands in a lagoon, half Lake Mälaren and half Saltsjön, which leads out to the Baltic Sea. It is much like Venice, but fresher and cleaner. Swedes fish and swim in the centre of their capital, which is surrounded by dramatic watercourses and the architecture of an imperial past. Gustavus Adolphus, the Swedish king, colonised most of northern Europe in the 17th century.

The old town, Gamla Stan, dating from 1252, is a warren of alleys between picturesque houses. Washed red, white or ochre and lovingly restored, they are home to about 3,000 people, so it is vibrant with life. Dominating the pavement cafes, antique and craft shops is the cathedral — very Lutheran, with no stained glass but richly decorated — and the royal palace, which now houses seven museums and which, the Swedes point out, is somewhat bigger and older than Buckingham Palace. There are candlelit "smörgåsar" restaurants, such as the one in Den Gyldene Svand, or Tullhus 2, which is a former Customs shed on the quay. Prices are much the same as in

London, but you do not need to spend a fortune to eat well. Breakfasts can be big or small, with cold meat, cheese, fruit, yoghurt, eggs, rolls and coffee. Many restaurants and cafes do a set "Dagens Lunch" for Skr50 (about £4).

Water laps everywhere, giving the whole city a relaxed feeling. You can buy a weekly "Stockholm Card" (around £15) which covers all local transport, including ferries, and allows free entry to more than 50 museums and parks. Boats can be hired to explore the lagoon, or you can take an old-fashioned steamer (about

My name is Jerk, but I call myself Eric

£6.50 return) for the hour's journey to Drottningholm, the palace where the Swedish royals live. Our own palaces might note that the park and gardens of this mini-Versailles are open without charge, and you can tour the palace for about £3 (children 90p, free entry to cardholders).

Between the city and the Baltic lies an archipelago of 24,000 islands, many of which can be reached by ferries from quays outside the Strand Hotel and the Royal Dramatic Theatre. The islands are one of the best and cheapest features of Stockholm life, and the locals have long used them for picnics, swimming and sunbathing. Try it even if you are only on a weekend break: you may not find your own desert island, but it is not hard to find your own private beach. For a more dramatic contrast, Lapland, about 600 miles north of Stockholm, can be reached by daily Transwade flights to Gällivare. One of the last great wildernesses — mountains, forest and sparkling lakes — you can walk or drive for hours, meeting herds of shy reindeer but not another human being: a powerful antidote to urban stress and tension.

Many visitors go fishing, others walk gently through forests or strenuously up mountains, hire a car or boat, go rock-climbing or travel by helicopter to join a dog-sleigh trek to the North Cape.

Centres are developing for those seeking more challenge in the outdoors. One example is at Lappeenranta, north of Gällivare, where Einar Knudsen will take you in an open boat up the Kalix river, through crashing white water rapids, to one of his two campsites — modern wooden huts built with central fire as in a

Lapp tent, where you can sleep out at night, or in the freezing water of the river, cooking in the open air, oil lamps and

total solitude — but you do need to get on well with your companions if it's not to end in homicide: a streak of masochism helps. When I visited one site, it was occupied by a small group from the Lapland Rangers (the Swedish equivalent of Britain's SAS).

This is the land of the Midnight Sun, and days are long from May to August. Gällivare is well inside the Arctic Circle, but in June it was hotter than Britain. There were no mosquitoes then; they arrive in August. Accommodation ranges from the luxurious hotel Nya Dundret (good restaurant, warm swimming pool saunas, exercise studio), modest guest houses and self-catering cabins to cheap all-age youth hostels.



The richly decorated, painstakingly restored 17th-century warship Vasa of Gustavus Adolphus in its purpose-built museum on Djurgården island

Sweden's post-war prosperity made tourism expensive, but after the recession the Swedes are keen to attract visitors and the cost of living is now only marginally higher than in Britain. Alcohol is still costly, with beer at about £2 or more for a third of a litre. Hotel costs are about the same as in Britain. Some things are

cheaper, notably the railways and public transport. Above all, Sweden is discovering the value of attracting visitors on package holidays. For travellers planning their own trips, the Swedish tour-



An adventure camp in the woods near Gällivare, Lapland

ism office in London, or a good travel agent, can help with information on flights and places to stay to suit all pockets.

MICHAEL HARTLAND

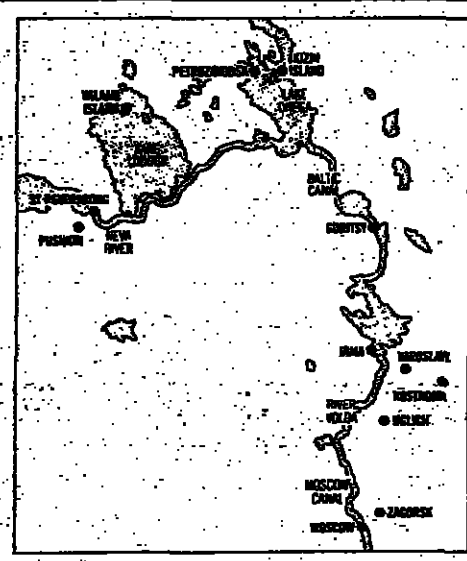
Getting there

Michael Hartland was a guest of SAS (071-734 4020), which flies Heathrow-Stockholm from £190 return, and of Transwade (0293 568812), which flies Gatwick-Stockholm from £184 return, and Gatwick-Gällivare £254 return.

NSR Travel, 21-24 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DA (071-930 6666) has two nights in Stockholm, including flights, from £233. Finlandia, 227 Regent Street, London W1R 7DB (071-409 7334) offers a week's package to Dundret from £579.

Swedish Travel & Tourism Council, 73 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8AN (071-487 3135).

Has better to explore the beautiful Russian countryside than from aboard a comfortable river vessel as she plies the intricate pattern of connecting rivers, canals and lakes that link two of Russia's greatest cities, Moscow and St Petersburg. The recent opening of the waterways allows us to navigate at a leisurely pace the Moscow and Volga canals, the Volga River, the White Lake, Baltic Canal, the vast lakes of Ladoga and Onega and the Neva and Narva rivers.



MS LENIN AND MS ANDROPOV

The MS Lenin and MS Andropov are modern purpose-built river vessels, built to international specifications in Germany. There is accommodation for up to 200 passengers in "outside" cabins, all with shower and toilet on three passenger decks. The vessels are air-conditioned throughout and public areas include lounges, bars, dining room, hairdresser, shop, clinic and large deck areas for observation and relaxing.

ANCIENT RUSSIA AND ITS WATERWAYS

St Petersburg-Khizi Island-Petrozavodsk-Goritz-Irma-Yaroslavl-Kostroma-Uglich-Bely Gorodok-Moscow
FLIGHTS WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS OR SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London Heathrow to St Petersburg and drive to the vessel moored on the Neva River.

DAY 2 Morning drive around St Petersburg, seeing many of its imperial and aristocratic palaces including the great baroque complex of Tsarskoye Selo and the Hermitage Museum. Optional afternoon visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress Cathedral and the great church of St Isaac. Evening musical performance.

DAY 3 Morning visit to Pushkin (Chernyshevskiy) the great Russian Poet built for the Empress Elizabeth in 1829. Later visit the Palace of Peterhof, which was designed by the Swedish architect Charles Cameron. In the afternoon see part of the magnificent collection of European Art in the Hermitage, founded by Catherine the Great. Sail in the evening.

DAY 4 Morning at leisure for independent sightseeing and shopping in St Petersburg. Sail at noon.

DAY 5 Morning arrival at the island of Khizi in Lake Onega. Visit the imposing 15-domed Church of The Transfiguration, a marvel of 18th century Russian wooden architecture. Also see some restored 18th century buildings — a greenhouse, a windmill and water mill.

DAY 6 Petrozavodsk. Here a visit will be made to the Art Museum, an excellent bookshop and the local market where hand-knitted and crocheted work is of the finest traditional quality.

DAY 7 Continue along the Baltic coast and White Lake to the town of



Goritz. Visit the Kirill-Bellinsk Monastery.

DAY 8 Irma. Much of today will be spent cruising with a short stop at the interesting village of Irma.

DAY 9 Tula. We visit the historic Yaroslavl, a well-preserved "Golden Ring" city. In the centre of the city is the lovely church of Elijah, the fortress on the walls and walking inside the church which are magnificent.

DAY 10 Kostroma is one of the best cities of the Volga Ring. Visit the 16th century Ipatievsky Monastery, now a museum.

DAY 11 Approaching the town of Uglich along the Volga, there is a delightful view of the Church of St John and the Cathedral of the

Resurrection. In blue cupolas dotted with golden stars making a magical sight. Short afternoon visit to Bely Gorodok.

DAY 12 Moscow. Cruising through Moscow canal and a series of locks en route to Moscow. Arrive in the evening and moor for a 3 night stay.

DAY 13 Visit the Kremlin to see the Cathedral of Annunciation, the Assumption and the Archangel Michael and the fine collection of imperial regalia arms and carriages in the Armoury Museum. (Optional theatre visit).

DAY 14 Drive to Zagorsk, seat of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Monastery Complex of the Trinity of St Sergius.

DAY 15 Nighting programme included until departure in London.

1995 DEPARTURE DATES

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FROM ST PETERSBURG TO MOSCOW
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TAZIA

(b) A representation of the tombs of Hasan and Husain (grandsons of Muhammad) carried in the Moharram procession, from the Arabic taziyat consolation, mourning: Rudyard Kipling, 1889: "Gilt and painted paper presentations of their tombs are borne with shouting and wailing, which fakements are called tazias."

VIBRAM

(c) The proprietary name of a kind of moulded rubber sole used on climbing boots, also applied to boots having this sole: "Later experience shows that boots with moulded rubber soles — Vibrams — are an advantage on rock climbs but are dangerous on greasy or iced rocks."

CHARTOPHYLAX

(a) An officer of the household of the Patriarch of Constantinople who has charge of the official documents and records, from the Greek *charta* paper + *phylax* guard: "He held the offices of Chartophylax, Scenophylax, and Referendarius in the Great Church (that of St Sophia) at Constantinople."

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ECUADOR: Travelling by dirt track and river can be tough, but the rewards are worth it



Quito, over 9,000ft above sea level and only 14 miles south of the Equator, can be tiring for travellers until they become acclimatised

It's a jungle out there

The graffiti in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, has a distinctly ecological tone, and an angry one at that. The basic message is: "Hands Off The Amazonian Rainforest", and "Down With Texaco" (or any American oil company). Nor are these sentiments confined to the wall-daubing classes: they are expressed at every stratum of society, including the government. (The sloganers are not without a sense of humour: one graffiti reads: "Ecologists Are Bio-Degradable Too".)

Ecuadorians have woken up to the fact that one of their most precious assets is at risk. Ecuador has been destroying its rainforest faster than any other South American country. The trouble is that they had less than anybody else to start with, having lost a large chunk of their Amazonian territory to Peru in 1942 after a war which went unnoticed by the rest of the world, being preoccupied with another conflict at the time.

The chief reason that Ecuador has been chopping down all that greenery is that it stands on a lot of oil, which was discovered in the 1970s and which, for a while, transformed the country's economy. Now the oil price is on the floor and Ecuador is saddled with appalling debts and 60 per cent annual inflation. They continue to drill for oil, and to strip the forests for timber or cash crops, such as coffee and cacao, but for how long? In mid-1993, under pressure from the growing ecological lobby, the government finally reacted, banning oil exploration in all national parks (which make up a third of national territory), except under stringent controls.

It is not the first time Ecuador has taken enlightened conservation measures: it has steered a very prudent course in the Galapagos Islands, limiting the number of tourists and tour operators, with excellent results: the islands remain unspoiled and the extraordinary wildlife survives unscathed. But this very success means that tourists associate Ecuador with Galapagos, Quito and little else. So the country is keen to promote the other attractions the mainland has to offer — and there are plenty of them.

The first thing that has to be said about travelling in Ecuador is that it can be tough going — it isn't a holiday for those who prize their creature

comforts above all else, though there are some good hotels scattered around — but there are rewards for those with a sense of adventure.

Away from the coastal plain, the country divides into two very different sectors: the Amazonian rainforest and the Andean plateaux and valleys. Our party headed first for the edge of the jungle, a gruelling seven-hour drive of almost 200 miles by minibus from Quito through scenery which underwent several dramatic transformations.

The slopes of the capital's outskirts are covered with eucalyptus trees, tall and scrawny and looking as if they are struggling for breath in the thin air (Quito stands over 9,000ft above sea level). As the road climbs to 13,000ft, the terrain becomes bleaker, and our unacclimatised heads began to ache from lack of oxygen. Over the summit, the road turns into a dirt track and descends, often precipitously, into lushly wooded river valleys gashed with the occasional waterfall and dotted with small farms. Cattle and pigs roamed around by the roadside. We knew we were heading towards the jungle because there was something else beside the road: an oil pipeline. Travelling on atrocious roads through small villages and towns where many of the wooden houses are built on stilts and transport is largely by horse, we finally reached Misahualli, staging post for the rainforest.

Here we had our first view of the rainforest's principal artery, the wide, brown River Napo. It runs into the Amazon several hundred miles downstream, west of Iquitos in Peru. You could step into a boat here and disembark 2,000 miles further east on Brazil's Atlantic shore. Misahualli felt like a frontier: indeed, we had to hand over our passports to the police, to be kept by them until our return. The only way into the rainforest was by river, on one of the long, dugout canoes (pirogues), which were drawn up on the beach beneath tall trees from which capuchin monkeys occasionally darted down to terrify tourists who ventured too close. Further up



the beach, a large Nile-style river cruiser was being built by a consortium which, we were told, plans to ferry tourists down the Napo on it. There are grave doubts locally as to whether the river is deep enough for it to operate. There was nothing cruiser-like about the canoe which, powered by its outboard mo-



Misahualli, on the edge of the rainforest

tor, took the ruin of us, plus our guide, down the Napo, crammed on to burn-numbing wooden seats.

Of Ecuador's rich bird population there was little sign: the odd flock of parrots in the distance, swifts and martins swooping low over the water for insects, the only real excitement the sight of an osprey heading for home with a fish clutched in its talons.

There were people, too: Indian women washing clothes on the bank, children playing, a group panning for gold on a bar in the middle of the river. The occasional house could be glimpsed through the trees but there was a feeling more of concealment than discovery.

We stayed overnight at the Jaguar Hotel, a fairly primitive place an hour downriver, where the bedrooms were more like those of a youth hostel than hotel and the food was indescribable. The electricity went off at 10pm, and we went to sleep to the sound of torrential rain thudding on

the corrugated iron roof. By morning, the rain had widened the Napo by 20 yards on either side and transformed it into a fast-flowing torrent.

After breakfast, we went for a walk in the rainforest wearing Wellington boots thoughtfully provided by the hotel. What started as a gentle stroll in the teeming rain, turned into something of an ordeal, as we forded swollen rivers up to our thighs and slipped and slid down streams, there being no other path. Before long the rain had got in everywhere: boots, neck, sleeves.

Eduardo, our guide and the hotel manager, pointed out a variety of plants which the local Indians used for treating kidney stones, coughs, fevers and stomach cramps. It occurred to several of us that we would have been well and truly lost without him. There was no discernible path and

no opportunity in the tunnel-like atmosphere of the jungle to spot landmarks or reference points to navigate by. It was something of a surprise (and relief) to find ourselves emerging, drenched and bedraggled, back at the hotel.

From my brief experience, I would not go to the rainforest expecting to see it teeming with wildlife. It's not like the African plains, with wall-to-wall animals on display. Deer, wild pigs, snakes and monkeys are in the forest somewhere but they tend to steer clear of humans crashing about in the mud. Nor were many of Ecuador's 1,500 different types of bird much in evidence. But it was still quite an experience.

On the way back to Misahualli, our canoe stopped off at Jatun Sacha, a worthy experiment which may have some significance in changing Ecuadorian attitudes to the fragile ecology of the rainforest.

This is a biological research station near the bank of the Napo, founded in 1986 by an Ecuadorian, Alejandro Suarez, and two Americans, Michael McColm and David Neill, and run as a non-profit-making foundation. It owns about 1,400 acres, mainly primary rainforest, and employs 14 staff. Its aims are to carry out research into the region's fauna, flora and ecology, run courses, and to educate local

people about the perils facing the rainforest and persuade them to take up forest-friendly agricultural techniques.

A lot of people came up from the coast, cleared some land, planted cash crops like coffee," Mr McColm said. "They used up the soil's nutrients in a couple of years and then they were pretty well stuck." The Jatun Sacha solution is to promote alternatives such as herb cultivation and butterfly farms, and they are making progress in changing local attitudes.

Jatun Sacha is supported financially by various American and European environmental charities, and even by those splendid old 1960s icons, the rock group the Grateful Dead. Jatun Sacha's next venture will be into eco-tourism. It deserves to become a tourist attraction in its own right.

There's plenty more to see in Ecuador, including some of the hairiest roads and drivers you're ever likely to encounter, stupendous mountain scenery, Indian markets, and fascinating churches (with quaintly pious murals a speciality).

We travelled the last leg back to Quito on an extraordinary contraption, a "rail-bus" which runs sporadically on one of Ecuador's few remaining railway lines. It looks like an old bus on rails, with just one compartment into which, perhaps, 25 people might squeeze. We boarded it at Machachi, a village not far from the magnificent snow-capped volcano Cotacachi. The 60-mile journey normally costs 300 sucres (10p), for a bumpy, swaying two-hour ride, with the added charm of cows on the single-track line and packs of dogs in hot pursuit from every village along the line. To cap it all, we were almost derailed by a stack of logs and sleepers placed on the tracks by vandals. Then, on the outskirts of Quito, a drunk had to be manhandled off the line by friends, a couple of seconds before we would have passed over his recumbent form.

That journey back felt rather like a ramshackle Disneyland ride, only for real. If I were Ecuador's Minister of Tourism, I'd build rail-bus lines all over the country and charge a fortune for riding on them. It would be an original way of seeing this engaging country.

ROBERT LOW



Country children dressed in typical Ecuadorian style

How to get there

□ The author travelled to Ecuador as a guest of Silk Cut Travel, Meon House, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3JN (0730 265211).

□ Silk Cut Travel offers three more departures this year (September 12, November 21 and December 9). Prices start at £2,688 for September and £2,582 for November and December. The itinerary comprises a 14-night, 17-day tour, including the mainland (Quito, Cotacachi and the Amazonian rainforest) and a seven-day cruise in the Galapagos islands. A US\$40 (about £7) national park tax is payable in Galapagos. Flights are via Amsterdam with KLM. Full board is provided throughout except in Quito (B&B). An English-speaking guide accompanies all tours.

□ If you prefer to travel to Ecuador individually, it is advisable to see the country on an approved tour arranged locally, because of the size and the rugged terrain (Galapagos can be visited only on such a tour). There are many tour companies in

Quito: one of the better ones is Etnotur, Luis Cordero 1313 (esq) y Juan Leon Mera, PO Box 4770, Quito (010 593 2 230552/564563).

□ The climate in Ecuador varies according to region, the coast being mostly hot and sticky, the uplands cooler, and the rainforest hot and wet. Light clothing, tough walking shoes and rainwear are recommended.

□ Language: Spanish. Local currency: Sucre (about 2,200 per US dollar); take US dollar traveller's cheques. The usual leading credit cards are accepted in Quito hotels and shops, currency in more remote areas.

□ Good hotels can be found in Quito and reasonable ones elsewhere (typical price outside Quito is US\$45, about £35, per night for double room). In the Amazonian region, hotels and lodges are more basic.

□ For further information, contact the Ecuadorian Embassy at 3 Hans Crescent, London SW1X 0LS (071-584 1267). Send s.a.c. for tourism fact pack.

TRAVEL TIPS

□ The open border between Israel and Jordan at Eilat/Aqaba has made Petra in Jordan, St Catherine's Monastery in Egypt, and Jerusalem accessible in one trip. A weekly tour from £699 (B&B) combines sites in the three countries. Return flights from Gatwick. Red Sea Holidays: 081-892 7606.

□ About 70 million people visit historic properties every year in England, with the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the Roman Baths and Pump Room in Bath and Windsor's State Rooms topping the list. Lloyds Bank Free Entry Day to 164 National Trust properties, which is really aimed at those who normally cannot afford the entrance fees, is on Wednesday September 14. For details of participating properties, write, enclosing an A5-size SAE, to: Free Entry Day, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AS.

□ Tuscany's wine harvest starts in October. Self-catering is available at a Chianti-producing "Pattoria" at £435 a week, including a car and flights from Gatwick. Italian Affair (071-381 6636).

□ The Time To Learn winter directory of weekend study offers around 2,000 topics from creative writing to video workshops at centres, most with accommodation, all over Britain. Language, painting and cooking courses in Europe are also listed. £4.25 from bookshops or send a cheque (no P&P charge) to Publications Sales, NIACE, 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE.

□ A cycling and barging holiday in Amsterdam (either south through Deft, or along the coastal route via Edam) includes a sturdy bike and a cabin on a traditional Dutch barge. A week including meals costs £329 by Rail Express from London, or £369 by air from Heathrow or Gatwick. Amsterdam Travel Service: 0992 456056.

□ An autumn cruise sailing from Southampton to Vigo (for Santiago de Compostela), Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malaga and Villefranche departs on October 2. From £399 for eight nights including meals and the return flight from Nice to Heathrow. Costa Cruises: 071-724 9911.

□ Three nights in Budapest during September and October at the Olympia hotel cost £249 (room only), flights from Heathrow. The hotel, on wooded Szabadság Hill, is 15 minutes from the city centre and has a pool and gym. Ultimate Holidays: 0279 755527.

□ Long weekends to Barcelona are a new venture for Catalan specialists Spanish Harbour Holidays (0272 373759). Three nights in October from £265 (B&B), including scheduled Iberia flights from Heathrow.

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BANK HOLIDAY: A disabled day-tripper gives his verdict on three tourist attractions

Try the wheelchair challenge

Among the millions of Britons on holiday outings this weekend, a fair proportion — about 10 per cent — will be disabled day-trippers. They will need to plan their excursions more carefully than most, taking their particular handicap into account, on top of organising diversions for the children, and having a contingency plan in case it rains. It's no big deal, frankly, it's just something you do.

Time was, though, when going to a tourist attraction in Britain was likely to be a very big deal indeed. The problems involved in just getting through the turnstiles were enough to put most people off. And, even if you made it, you could practically guarantee that you would not get your money's worth because this attraction or that attraction was up a flight of stairs or down a narrow path.

Things are better now — but we are not there yet. Although many owners are making a real effort, there are still those who think it enough to make a few concessions, stick up a wheelchair sign, then congratulate themselves and leave it at that. But the goal of complete accessibility is not some Utopian dream. All it needs is the will, a longer-term view of profit margins and the understanding that if you put on a good show, disabled visitors will return again and again — just like everybody else.

Britain has thousands of holiday attractions, but I have yet to find somewhere that is 100 per cent accessible for disabled visitors. By accessible I mean somewhere where you can do absolutely everything on exactly the same level as everyone else. Why not? We all play to get in.

Here are some places that are trying hard.

THRILLS AND SPILLS
Thorpe Park has made substantial progress on behalf of disabled people last year it won a Holiday Care Service Award in recognition of its efforts. The whole park and most of the 100 plus rides and attractions — apart from the Depth Charge and the Thunder River — are accessible to unaccompanied wheelchair users. The Depth Charge and the Thunder River are hackable with assistance, but don't count on the staff — the possibility of litigation now means they are not allowed to physically help you.

Many rides have assistance phones near by which allow disabled visitors to summon help which will get them up a ramp and next to the action very quickly. However, rigid-framed sports chairs won't fit through the gates next to the Flying Fish ride, and the staff will not allow chairs on to the platform next to the Logger's Leap. You have to make an extended and undignified bum-shuffle to the cars at both attractions. I put this point to Colin Dawson, the managing director of Thorpe Park.

"I hadn't realised there was a problem," he said. "It may be that we can widen one of the gates, and at least shorten the journey to the Logger's Leap. I will see what we can do."

You can see that a lot has already been done. A disabled youngster can go with his or her friends, and have a good time, just like anyone else. The access to the infrastructure — not just to the lavatories — is first class. You can get to all the children's areas, there are wheelchair spaces in the show arenas and room in all the food and merchandising outlets.

While I was at Thorpe Park I met Neville Millard, a wheel-

chair-user, who was with his young son James. Mr Millard had been having a fine time until he encountered the problem of access to the Flying Fish. He didn't like to make a fuss: complaining would have cast a shadow over the day.

FLOWERS AND STEAM
The South Devon Railway, also known as the Primrose Line, runs on a seven-mile stretch of track between Buckfastleigh (two minutes from the A38 Exeter to Plymouth road) and Totnes. The railway follows a beautiful stretch of the river Dart, stopping off at Staverton — "the best little Victorian station in Devon" according to the railway's enthusiastic volunteer staff. When we were there, the place was a mass of flowers.

The SDR has made a real effort to make disabled passengers, sorry customers, welcome on its aged stock. Richard Elliott, the general manager, showed me two carriages in the regular train: the first is accessible to several wheelchairs, and the second has a wide vestibule, from which the more agile can transfer to regular seating. Ramps are available at all three stations.

That first carriage used to be the guard's van. Still smarting from the indignity of several full-fare British Rail trips when I was consigned to the guard's van among the bikes and caged birds, I suggested that the ideal solution would be one in which wheelchair users could choose their seats like anyone else. Mr Elliott told me that the railway was at present saving up for a former Pullman car, which will have flexible seating. That'll be one up on some of the British Rail stock, with at least the SDR has a bar in its guard's van.

At Buckfastleigh there is disabled parking and a lavatory. All the station attractions, including a railway museum and workshops, are accessible. I was told that the Butterfly Farm and Otter Sanctuary next door also had reasonable access. At Totnes there is a bit of a push from the mainline station and car park to the SDR, so, if you're a mind to, I recommend jumping aboard at Buckfastleigh and heading east to Totnes.

BLOOD AND GUTS
When I was in the Navy, I must have walked past HMS Victory a thousand times but had never once climbed on board — there was always another day. So, as a child, Nelson's flagship was one place I definitely wanted to check out.

The Victory has wheelchair access, and there is even a "Special Needs" tour three times a day. This comprises a tour of the lower gun deck only and a video in lieu of the rest. Our guide, retired Regulating Petty Officer Bill Hoskins, said that this deck was the best one anyway because of the proportion of original timbers remaining. It is full of cannon and capstans and hawsers, so you get the feel of the place. But I would have liked to have seen the upper deck and the after cabins. You pay full price for this tour, which seems a bit steep — a video hardly takes the place of the real thing.

I asked why there were only three "Special Needs" tours a day, when regular tours leave every ten minutes? Mr Hoskins said that there was not enough demand: "We can take six wheelchairs at a time but we rarely have more than one or two, and there are regular blank slots." That is probably because people do not know about the tours: none of the publicity material I saw mentioned them.



Andy Healey and his son Ryan have fun aboard the Flying Fish at Thorpe Park

At the time, I was impressed by what the Navy had done to help disabled visitors to its most famous ship. However, it later occurred to me that as the ladder wells seemed quite spacious, a chairlift could be installed between some of the decks. One sucking of teeth and muttering about Health and Safety regulations.

However, the Navy has made a good start and I think the Admiralty — a Special Needs case if ever there was one — would approve.

ANDY HEALEY

The author trained as a helicopter pilot in the Fleet Air Arm. He flew both with the Navy and as a civilian until breaking his back in a flying accident in 1985. He now runs an aerospace public relations consultancy and writes for the specialist press.



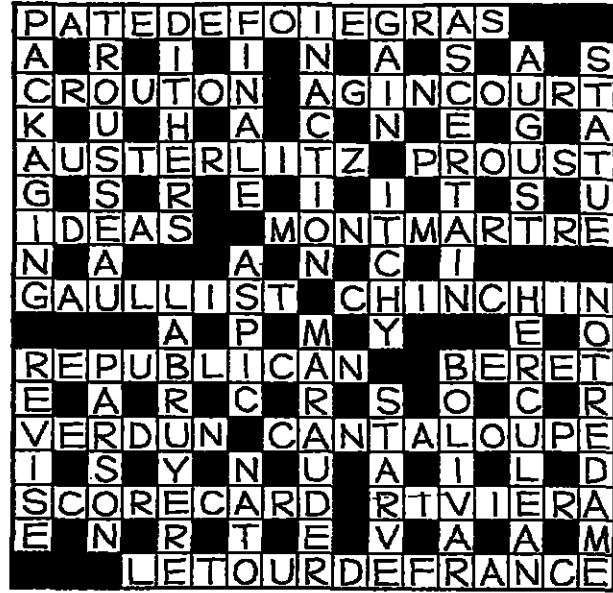
Mr Millard and son James

Fact file

NEXT SPRING the European Commission is to publish a guide, *Accessible Europe*, including a chapter on facilities for disabled visitors at British tourist attractions. In the meantime, contact tourist boards or obtain access guides from:

- Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH16 9HW (0293 774535). In November it will publish *The Holiday Care Guide to Accessible Travel*.
- RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1Y 8AF (071-250-3222).
- The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS (071-222 9251).
- English Heritage, Customer Services, 429 Oxford Street, London W1A 1BB (071-973 3396).

WHERE TO VISIT
 □ Thorpe Park, Staines Road, Chertsey, Surrey (0932 569393). Adults £11.25; under-14s £10.25 (children under one metre free); disabled visitors £6 midweek; £8 weekends.
 □ The South Devon Railway, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0DZ (0364 642338). Adult return £5.60; children £3.90.
 □ HMS Victory, 1/7 College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ (0705 861533). Adults £4.75; children £3.50; family £15.



SOLUTION TO THE TIMES CROSSWORD CHALLENGE (1)

THE WINNER of the first Times Crossword Challenge published between August 6 and 12, was Alan Simpson of Aberdeen. He wins a Club Med skiing holiday for two. The six winners of £100 of traveller's cheques, courtesy of The Travel Bureau, were: Jill Lennox, London SW15; Rod Morris, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire; Matthew King, Salford; Sheila Leggett, Warwick; Timothy Jones, Harpenden, Hertfordshire; and June Brewer, Bristol.

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All return fares must be booked by 31st August 1994 and are subject to differing travel periods. (Local taxes may be applicable). For full details and conditions see your travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop, or call us on:

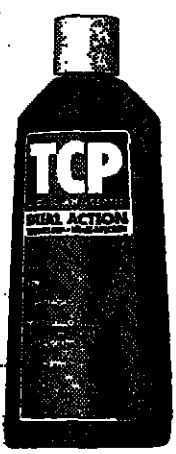
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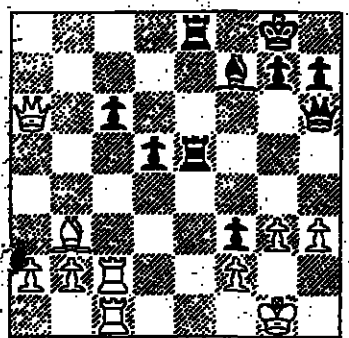
GAMES

27

by Raymond Keene

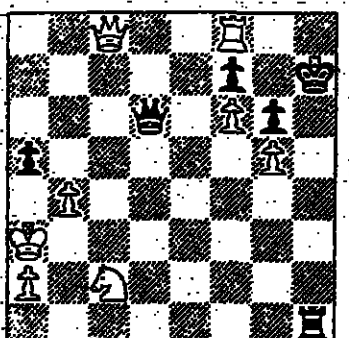
I AM most gratified by the flood of readers' letters, games and queries which continue to pour in about all aspects of chess. The 'Winning Move' position given on May 2nd inspired one reader to submit a slightly slower but elegant solution.

White, Vaitonis, Black, Fine.
Stockholm, 1937.
Black wins with 1... Qxb3 2 Qf1 Rel 3 Rxe1 Rxe1 4 Qxg2 mate.



ian Johnson, of Tyne and Wear, points out an alternative solution of 1... Rel 2 Rxe1 Rxe1 3 Kh2 Rhl 4 Kxhl Qxh3 5 Kgl Qg2 mate. If instead 2 Kh2, then the rook on c1 is lost.

Games between Short and Kasparov are always full of fireworks. Over their lifetime career Short was the first to score a win and it came in their game from Brussels 1986.



Here Kasparov (Black to play) resigned. 14-year-old Ashley Mich-

his position is from the game Eolsov - Moiseev, Kaluga 1970. White has driven the black king out into the open and the remainder of the black army appears to have deserted. How did White complete the rout?

Send your answers on a postcard to: The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1... Bh6

ael of Somerset suggests 45... axb4 46. Nxb4 Qxb4 47. Kxb4 Rh4+ with a perpetual check draw, since Black can keep on sacrificing his rook in view of the fact that his king is stalemated. For example 48 Kc3 Rc4 49 Qxc4 stalemate. However, 45... axb4 is met by 46 Ka4 when Black has no sensible checks left. However, it is surprising that Kasparov did not give this variation a try, hoping that Short would fall into the stalemate trap. Well done for an ingenious suggestion.

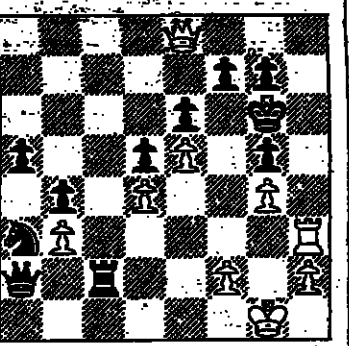
I have received a number of queries about the British Problem Solving Championship. These should be directed to the organiser of the competition, Brian Stephenson, 9 Rydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S19 6ND. G.P. McCoy of Southampton has asked whether readers can submit games for possible publication in The Times if they are neatly handwritten rather than typed. The answer is, yes, although typed material is always preferred. Games submitted illegibly will not be considered for publication.

New Award for Readers: The new award system for Times readers who write in with queries and/or games has proved most popular with well-informed communications and comments from readers pouring in at the rate of 60 per week.

Best games and queries from Times readers are welcomed. Please send your contributions to: Raymond Keene, c/o Keene on Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. All contributions should be typed and in the standard algebraic form as used by The Times.

Any Times reader who submits a game or a chess query to me will automatically receive one free copy of the British Chess Magazine. Furthermore, any games and queries from readers which I deem of sufficient quality or interest to merit publication in The Times will receive a six-month complimentary subscription to the British Chess Magazine.

Last week's winners are: J Hinchins, Roper Street, London; A Malik, Southall, Middlesex; A Shortland, Mansfield Road, London.

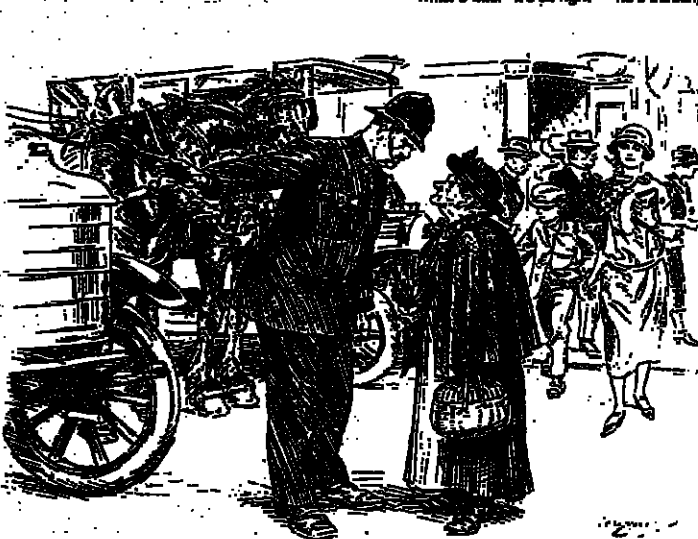


READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 21, Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 31.



"You do not have to say anything... but I'm afraid I've forgotten the rest"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (printed above) was submitted by W.S. Wake, of Croydon, south London.

CYBERSPACE Eight was all about facing the final curtain when the end is near — in other words, end sequences. Simon Smith of Bromley, Kent, nominated David Brabner's original Elite, an Acornsoft product written for the ancient 8-bit BBC micro. The space-trading game, he declared, set "a new frontier in anticlimax".

The object was indeed to make the Elite combat rating, having sweated away for days, weeks even, slowly climbing rung by rung from the lowly Harmless rating. Mr Smith explained: "To become Elite you really had to work. Once you got there, nothing. No message. No congratulations. The only change was your combat rating moving from Deadly to Elite. If it happened during a fight, you wouldn't even notice it. Being an optimist, I assumed I needed to dock to receive the congratulations I deserved so that's what I did. Again, nothing."

"I'd done everything there was to do in the game. Completed all missions, passed through all eight galactic sectors, destroyed several

thousand enemy starships and become rich beyond belief. All to true anticlimax at the end."

Jason Evans, of Crawley, West Sussex, nominated Flair's platform game Oscar for his anticlimax award. He played the AI2000 version on his Amiga. "After 21 levels of frustration, the end screen was almost completely garbled. All those nice touches of humour. Touching gameboy and game gear objects turns everything a two-tone green or horribly bright while the bonus levels poke fun at product placement, with jars of 'Nekofee' and 'Henson and Bedges Superstrokes' prominently displayed."

Next week we'll announce the six winners of Cyberspace Eight, who each win goodies from US Gold. Sega's Virtua Racing for the Mega Drive introduces a new set of initials into the virtual vocabulary — SVP. The Sega Virtual Processor

is "a highly powerful DSP [Digital Signal Processor] chip that enables the Mega Drive to produce up to 500 polygons on screen." Who knows what all this means: all that interests this department is whether the game measures up to the bobbledyboog. In short, it does.

This is a racing game for one or two players with fast, colourful graphics. There's a real sense of travel from the start (the rolling hills of California spring to mind), and the finish line can be anything between five and 20 curvaceous laps away crunching through automatic or manual gears. Your viewpoint can be varied, from the impossible front-axle position to that of, say, a helicopter following overhead. Two-player mode splits the screen horizontally and doubles the fun, your opponent appearing in your screen whenever they catch up or, dare say, overtake. The only drag factor is the price — £59.99.

News, views and gaming tips as always to Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax us direct on 071-729-6791.

BRIDGE

by Albert Dormer

LAWYERS are the most reviled professional group in America. Anti-lawyer jokes plumb the depths of sick humour and 101 Things to do with a Dead Attorney is a bestseller. The Bar Association reports a continuing rise in physical assaults on members.

And yet, for many years, the most liked and respected member of the Greater New York Bridge Association was — a lawyer.

Lee Hazen's Manhattan practice did not expose him only to the best side of human nature, yet he exuded goodwill like the brothers Cheeryble. He helped the American Contract Bridge League through its early struggles, ran the league's Charity Foundation, did many other good deeds, and still had time for championship bridge. But there was another reason why bridge players would smile with their hearts when Hazen came to their table. He kept up a steady flow of wisecracks and always had a good hand to show you.

Once, in the last round of a pairs contest, he needed a top and was faced with the sequence below.

10543
AQ742
Q2
A6
92
J103
10876
9875

W N E S
No 2 No 3
No 4 No 4NT
No 5 No ?

North's sequence suggested shortness in the minor suits. 6♠ must be icy: there could be no loser but the missing ace. But this contract would be reached all round the room and would produce only an average score.

Hazen's fancy, therefore, lightly turned to thoughts of 6NT: with a neutral lead there would be time to dislodge the opponents' ace. However, if West chanced to lead a heart, there could be a problem. Hazen looked closely at West and saw that she was a little old lady. He had been around and he knew that little old ladies always lead the unbid suit, in this case clubs: so he bid 6NT. But West, belying her age and sex, came forth with a heart and Hazen had to finesse. East returned a heart and the contract failed by three tricks.

Mortified, Hazen had begun to fill in the scoresheet when the little old lady eyed him suspiciously. "Are you sure," she asked, "that you aren't using any private conventions?"

The situation where declarer has to guess which way to finesse for a missing queen has given rise to many stories. But Hazen told of a case where the declarer finessed both ways — and won each time!

Q63 A102 873
KJ94

Hazen was West and his queen soon became a dead duck when South led the 4 from hand and finessed the 10. Two or three tricks later, finding himself in dummy again, declarer led the 2 towards the closed hand and Hazen, hardly bothering to glance at declarer's own card, followed small. It then transpired that South had finessed the jack. "The only question about this hand," Hazen told his teammates, "is which was worse — declarer's memory or my eyesight."

Hazen's self-effacement was such that he would tell of only one deal where he was the hero.

974
KQ4
87542
96
10883
QJ63
J10875

W N E S
No No No No
4V No No No
No No No No
Opening lead: ♠10

Hazen, sitting East, was one of four friends who played weekly, and South was the recognised authority. ("The only guy who had a bridge book," Hazen explained.) With South's powerhouse, most of us would probably bid a direct 7♠, but at the table South talked himself into bidding only six.

West led a heart and South saw that his only losers were in clubs. If he could enter dummy, two clubs would go on the ♠K-Q. There was no quick entry, but one could be made by forcing out the ♠J.

So pleased was South with this scenario that he straight away returned the ♠10. The jack would win, he thought, and the 9 would allow access. But Hazen took the position that if South were offering him a free trick, it could not be healthy to accept; so he ducked.

South now played off the ♠A-K, hoping that Hazen would ruff; but he declined to. Now South was kaput: if he tried to ruff a club, he would be over-ruffed. Suppose that he played off the top clubs without touching trumps at all. Perhaps it was then more tempting for East to ruff — and if he did, the slam was made. The hand won Hazen a \$250 prize in a magazine competition, and he spent it on a dinner for his friends.

The last time I saw Lee was in an elevator in San Diego. He leaned over my shoulder and saw that I was reading a headline, "Anaheim lawyer leaves \$1 million, to each of five daughters."

"I'm not leaving my kids \$1 million each," he told me, adding defiantly, "and it's not just because I haven't got it."

No. 3268: Vade Mecum — II by Mog, sponsored by Penguin

FROM the answer to each clue a letter is to be omitted wherever it occurs. Taken a clue order, from 1 across to 26 down, these missing letters spell out an agreeable quotation. In every case the clue leads to the full, unamalgamated answer. All lights are in Chambers (1993 edition) except 4 down, which is implied.

- ACROSS
- 2nd-class diners who enjoy stinky food?
 - Confirm governor's appointment
 - Double shift involves energy and team workers
 - Alps triumphs readily when Times columnist leaves the region
 - Casualty, Lear's uncle consumes the contents of two tins
 - Take it from here: "Ron's girl is in my league, a radical..."
 - A third of a mile along the main road, with luck, you'll find Spain's Missing Links
 - Young camper Oliver's girl is attracted to —
 - Misprint: put "i" for "a" (in the margin)
 - Who can play the Duke? Or vice versa, in Hollywood?
 - Production of American in Paris moving to Germany
 - Custos (the Head) has the right to take outsiders to The French Connection
 - Abandoned by one love, Lothario turns to this "Fair Princess"
 - Could I be sent round the bend by electricity?
 - Agitate for Party member with well above-average eccentricity
 - Hourglass? This would serve as well to wit, head off the evangelist entirely

- DOWN
- Crowned with academic honour, Alec Robins — first and foremost a champion vintage composer!
 - Type of nose-job that requires time and drastic action with a tissue implant
 - Disenvelled, this old Latin makes King's Manuscript hard to read
 - Broken in Oban, Peel's blade appears in the Lowlands
 - Lacking blooming condition, crazy count wants a liure
 - Everyone has a turn at the bottle, leaving a de-scent like this?
 - Discourages cracks about Oz
 - Old bike with no pedals and comic frame
 - Stallone's come-back depends on Fabergé's secret magic crystals
 - Colour-hearing? I sense a hasty confusion here
 - Of Aphrodite and her island in the Blue Yon-
 - Oddball stuck in bad patch — that puts the lid on Barnes!
 - In recent times, it's really unconventional to describe race
 - Had Gilbert disbarred, strangely for satisfaction
 - Training tricks — or cons?
 - Cypriot woman's boy, one in a thousand
 - Where Cain went, an unruly youth, to get knouted
 - Yours truly in a sweater, looking like an out-size orange

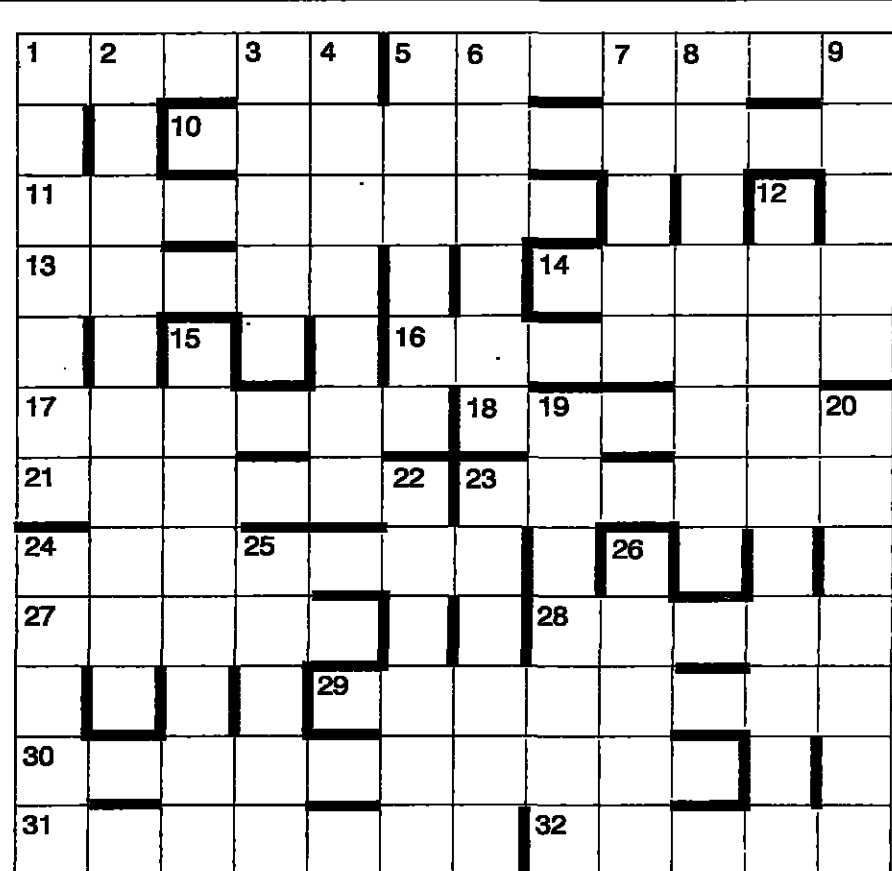
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OELIOTTTEANOA
UNASYAHEAYELP
STEMSTERNEBRA

SOLUTION TO No. 3265
Farewell Medley by Klick

The First Shall Be Last:
Across
1. Angary (Lineker), 44.
George (Elton) tie. Down. 25.
Pa (Nick) (Faldo) y.

Just Do As You're Told:
Down
1. Ados-intrados-intromit -
insert 22. Winchester-
winches-putter-on - instiga-
tor. 43. Cape-capability-
nobility - goodness.

The winner, who receives book tokens worth £50, is R A Dearman, of St Bede's College, Manchester. Book tokens worth £20 go to Patrick J Lavery, of Muswell Hill, north London, and J A Gunn, of Bristol.



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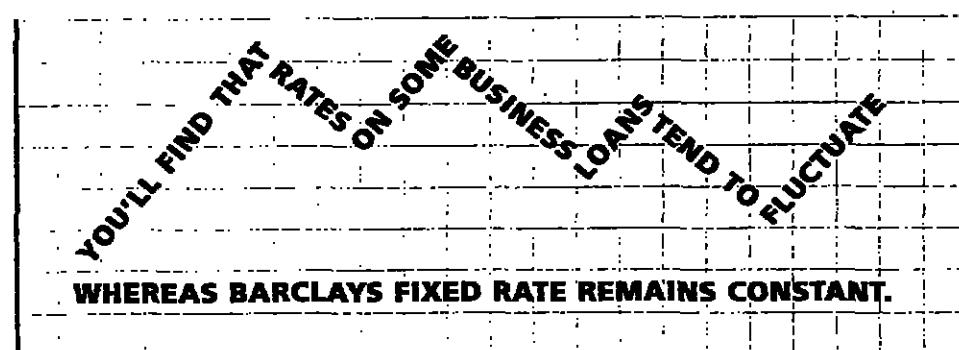
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